

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVII.—NEW SERIES, No. 599.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1857.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.
STAMPED 6d.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.
PATRON—H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT.
EASTER HOLIDAYS.

1. MORNING CONCERT, daily, at three o'clock, and EVENING CONCERT at eight, by the unrivalled HUNGARIAN BAND, which has been strengthened by the addition of other Performers. Conductor, Herr KALOEDY.—Also engagements for the EVENING CONCERTS of Miss LEVILLA and Miss HEMMING, and the Brothers ALFRED and HENRY HOLMES, Violinists, who have just returned from Vienna.

2. NEW LECTURES ON APPLIED CHEMISTRY, by J. H. PEPPER, Esq., "On the USE and ABUSE of the FIRE ANNIHILATOR," with brilliant and striking Experiments, and on the Chemistry of Bread and its Adulterations.

3. NEW LECTURE "On Mr. ROSE's (of Glasgow) KALOTROPE," being a novel and curious invention, displaying many beautiful Optical Delusions and Effects.

4. NEW LECTURE, by Mr. KING, "On the MECHANICAL POWERS of the AIR we see not."

5. NEW and ORIGINAL ENTERTAINMENT by Mr. JAMES, one of the most celebrated Ventriloquists and Polyphonists of the day.

6. An entire NEW ROOM is now devoted to STEVENS'S EXHIBITION of very costly, grand, and most beautiful LUMINOUS CHROMATIC, COSMORAMIC TRANSPARENCIES of CHINA and other places; also, STEREO-SCOPES, &c., being the prettiest Cosmorama ever exhibited, and brought by Mr. STEVENS from the Paris Exhibition.

7. NEW SERIES of DISSOLVING VIEWS, illustrating CHINA and the LOCALITIES of the PRESENT WAR, with an interesting LECTURE on the MANNERS and CUSTOMS of the CHINESE, by A. E. SPENCER, Esq., and Exhibition of many Chinese Curiosities from Messrs. HEWITT, of Fenchurch-street.

8. Also another NEW and very imposing SERIES of DISSOLVING VIEWS, illustrating "EGYPT in the TIME of the PHARAOHS," with appropriate Music by the Orchestra of the Institution, and Description written and delivered by LEICESTER BUCKINGHAM, Esq.

9. In addition to all these Novelties, the DIVER will perform his operations under water. There are also the DIVING BELL, the 5,000 Models of WORKS of ART, MONTANARI'S highly admired ART WAX-WORK, and many new Inventions.

N.B.—The Refreshment Department will be increased by the addition of LOYAL'S PATENT MACHINES for making COFFEE as in FRANCE, and preparation will be made to supply the Public with 2,000 cups per diem, at 2d. per cup.

Open from Twelve to Five, and Seven to Ten. Admission to the whole is.; Children under Ten and Schools, half-price.

OPENING of the NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, PECKHAM RYE.

A SERMON in celebration of the Opening of the above place of worship, will be preached (d.v.) on TUESDAY, May 5th, 1857, by the Rev. J. SHERMAN, of Blackheath. Service to commence at Twelve o'clock.

And in the EVENING a PUBLIC MEETING will be held. Chair to be taken, at half-past Six, by WM. EDWARDS, Esq. The Rev. J. Burnet, Rev. T. C. Hine, Rev. R. W. Betts, Esq., Jas. Payne, Esq., and other ministers and gentlemen are expected to attend.

On SUNDAY, May 10th, SERMONS will be preached: In the Morning by the Rev. R. W. BETTS, of Hanover Chapel; in the Afternoon by the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, of Surrey Chapel; and in the Evening by the Rev. H. J. GAMBLE, of Upper Clapton. Services to commence, in the Morning, at Eleven; in the Afternoon, at Three; and in the Evening at half-past Six o'clock.

Collections towards the Building Fund will be made after each service.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.
ANNUAL SERVICES.

The following is the arrangement for the Services in connection with the Sixty-fifth General Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society:—

THURSDAY, April 22nd.
A MEETING for PRAYER in the Library of the Mission House; Morning, Eleven o'clock. The Rev. GEORGE ISAAC, of Brighton, to preside.

LORD'S DAY, April 26th.
SERMONS will be preached on behalf of the Society in the Baptist Chapels of the Metropolis. [For particulars see the "Missionary Herald" for April.]

TUESDAY, April 28th.
A GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Society will be held at the Mission House, Moorgate-street, at Ten o'clock in the Morning. This Meeting is for Members only. All subscribers of 10s. 6d. or upwards, donors of 10s. or upwards, pastors of Churches which make an annual contribution, or ministers who collect annually for the Society, and one of the executors on the payment of a legacy of 50s. or upwards, are entitled to attend.

WEDNESDAY, April 29th.
THE ANNUAL MORNING SERMON will be preached at Bloomsbury Chapel, by the Rev. NORMAN MACLEOD, of Glasgow. Service to commence at Eleven o'clock.

THE ANNUAL EVENING SERMON will be preached at Surrey Chapel, by the Rev. CHARLES VINCE, of Birmingham. Service to commence at half-past Six o'clock.

THURSDAY, April 30th.
THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held at Exeter Hall, Strand. The Chair to be taken by the Right Honourable the EARL of SHAPTESBURY, at Eleven o'clock.

THE ANNUAL SERMON to YOUNG MEN will be preached at the Welsh-house Chapel, by the Rev. THOMAS BISHOP, of London, in the Evening, at Eight o'clock.

Admission to the Public Meeting on Thursday Evening will be by Tickets, which may be obtained at the Mission House, 22, Moorgate-street.

The Ministers at the Public Meeting will be accompanied to the Committee, to the Speakers, to the Representatives of kindred institutions, and to such other individuals as it may be deemed proper specially to invite; and also to all Ministers who are Members of the Society.

The Body of the Hall will be for the Members of the Society generally.

FREDERICK TRESTRAIL, } Secretaries.
EDWARD B. UNDERHILL, }

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL, will be held at St. MARTIN'S HALL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 6th. Further particulars will be announced.

2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

CAMDEN-ROAD CHAPEL.—On SUNDAY, APRIL 26th, 1857, The Rev. F. TUCKER, B.A., will commence his Ministry in the above Chapel, by preaching TWO SERMONS in AID of the BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY. Services, Eleven and half-past Six.

OFFORD-ROAD CHAPEL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD.

The Rev. PAXTON HOOD will commence his Ministry at the above Chapel on SUNDAY NEXT, April 26th.—Subject, in the Morning, "The Great Text of the Christian Ministry;" in the Evening, "The Handful of Corn on the Top of the Mountains."

Service to commence, in the Morning, at Eleven; in the Evening, at half-past Six o'clock.

BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the POULTRY CHAPEL, CHEAPSIDE, on MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 27th. PETER BROAD, Esq., of Oaklands, will preside. The Chair to be taken at Half-past Six precisely.

The Meeting will be addressed by Messrs. Stovel, of London, Hands, of Salisbury, Chown, of Bradford, and Tipple, of Norwich.

TEA will be provided at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate-street, at Half-past Five.

S. J. DAVIS, Secretary.

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL SERMON will be preached by the Rev. W. LANDEL'S, in DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE CHAPEL, on FRIDAY EVENING, April 24th. The Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

THE PUBLIC MEETING will be held in KINGSGATE-STREET CHAPEL, on TUESDAY EVENING, April 28th. The Chair to be taken at Half-past Six o'clock, by the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST NOEL, A.M. The Rev. Frederick Trestrail, formerly Secretary to the Baptist Irish Society; the Rev. John Aldin, of Reading; the Rev. Nathaniel Hayscroft, M.A., of Bristol; and the Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., of Lee, have engaged to take part in the Meeting.

C. J. MIDDLEDITCH, Secretary.

Baptist Mission House, April 16, 1857.

CONTINENTAL EVANGELISATION.

On FRIDAY MORNING, May 1st, a SERMON will be preached in connection with the labours of the Rev. J. G. ONCKEN, in BLOOMSBURY CHAPEL, at Eleven o'clock.

On the Evening of the same day, a PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the DIORAMA CHAPEL, Regent's-park. The chair will be taken at Seven o'clock. An account of the triumphs of the Gospel during the last thirty years will be given by the Rev. J. G. Oncken. Addresses will also be delivered by the Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel, M.A., the Revs. Dr. Steane, H. J. Betts, and other Friends.

A collection will be made after each service on behalf of the cause.

The attendance of all who are interested in the Evangelisation of the Continent is earnestly invited.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

The Office is REMOVED to 56, OLD BAILEY.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held May 26, at the LECTURE HALL of the SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

ROBERT ASHTON, } Secretaries pro. tem.
ROBERT LITTLE, }

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY of the RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—The Committee of the Society have much pleasure in announcing the following arrangements for the approaching ANNIVERSARY of the Society:—

WEDNESDAY Evening, May 6th, at Seven o'clock, a SERMON in the Church of ST. MARY-LE-BOW, Cheap-side, by the Right Rev. the LORD BISHOP of RUPERT'S LAND.

THURSDAY Evening, May 7th, at Seven o'clock, a SERMON in SURREY CHAPEL, by the Rev. Dr. RAFFLES, of Liverpool.

FRIDAY Evening, May 8th, the PUBLIC MEETING will be held in EXETER HALL, the Chair to be taken at Six, by the Right Hon. JOSEPH NAPIER, M.P. The Very Rev. the Dean of Carlisle; the Rev. Norman Macleod, of Glasgow; the Rev. J. B. Marsden, of St. Peter's, Birmingham; the Rev. W. Landels, of Regent's-park, London; and Edward Baines, Esq., of Leeds, have kindly consented to take part in the proceedings.

* Tickets for the Public Meeting may be obtained at the Depositories, 56, Paternoster-row, and 164, Piccadilly.

BOROUGH of SOUTHWARK.—At a numerous MEETING of the late Constituents of APSLEY PELLATT, Esq., held at the Queen's Head, Borough, on Wednesday, the 15th day of April, 1857,

GEORGE NEWMAN, Esq., in the Chair.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

That this Meeting, having had many opportunities of observing the public acts and estimating the private character of Apsley Pellatt, Esq., during the last thirty years, as well as the five years in which he represented the borough of Southwark in Parliament, desire to express their sincere regret at the result of the recent election, and also their unabated confidence in the honour and integrity of that gentleman. That after an attentive consideration of all the circumstances of his connection with the Royal British Bank, which lasted only eighteen months, this Meeting is of opinion that his retirement from the direction seven years ago appears to them to have been an honest and a prudent act.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON is engaged to Preach for the BAPTIST BUILDING FUND, at JOHN-STREET CHAPEL, BEDFORD-ROW (the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel's), on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 29th inst., at Seven o'clock.

The Fund assists Churches in "Building," Enlarging, and Repairing their places of worship.

AGED PILGRIMS' FRIEND SOCIETY.

THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING will be held at EXETER HALL, in the Lower Room, on TUESDAY EVENING, April 28th, 1857.

ROBERT LUSH, Esq., will take the Chair (d.v.) at half-past Six o'clock, precisely.

A WIDOW LADY, a Member of a Congregational Church, is anxious to receive Two Little Girls to TRAIN and EDUCATE with a part of her own family.

Communications to be addressed to E. A., Post office, Farnham, Hants.

A BRITISH SCHOOL TEACHER, trained at the Borough-road, having just left her School in Essex, wishes for a RE-ENGAGEMENT. Satisfactory testimonials can be given.

Address, M. G., 10, Manners-street, York-road, Lambeth.

GENERAL DRAPERY.—WANTED IMMEDIATELY a JUNIOR ASSISTANT, not under Twenty-one years of age, must be active, obliging, and a good Salesman.

Apply, stating salary and last employer, to W. Beckingsale, 429, High-street, Cheltenham.

A LADY is desirous of meeting with an ENGAGEMENT in a family as resident GOVERNESS. She is competent to give instruction in English, French, Music, and Drawing. Unexceptionable references can be given.

Address, A. B., Ward, Bookseller, &c., Denmark-hill, Camberwell.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED IMMEDIATELY, an EXPERIENCED HAND for the HOSIERY DEPARTMENT. A member of a Christian Church preferred.

Apply to J. Robinson, Diss, Norfolk.

WANTED, in the GENERAL DRAPERY, &c., a YOUNG MAN, of persevering business abilities and accustomed to a genteel trade. Also a YOUNG LADY, possessing a knowledge of Millinery and competent to line and trim bonnets fashionably.

Apply to Mr. A. Fountain, Ealing, Middlesex, stating age, qualifications, and salary.

TO DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED. A YOUNG MAN and YOUNG WOMAN of experience and ability.

Apply, with full particulars, to Geo. Osborn, Amersham, Bucks.

READING, 7, REGENT-STREET.—MR. LEONARD receives a few YOUNG GENTLEMEN as DAILY PUPILS, for a superior Classical, Mathematical, and English Education.

WANTED, an EFFICIENT and a JUNIOR YOUNG MAN, also a FEMALE ASSISTANT.

Apply, Brice and Sons, Drapers, Northampton.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PECKHAM, LONDON (S.E.); is adapted for First-class Mercantile Instruction. Every Pupil is, as far as possible, well grounded in English, made to write a hand fit for business, and taught to be quick at Accounts; while the Modern Languages, Chemistry, and Mechanics, are also liberally provided for. Terms, Forty Guineas; above the age of Fifteen, Fifty. No extras whatever. Reference given to leading Firms, Scotch and English.

J. YEATS, F.R.G.S., Principal.

PALMER HOUSE ACADEMY,
HOLLOWAY-ROAD, LONDON, N.

Conducted by Rev. A. STEWART and SONS.

Biblical Instruction, the Greek, Latin, French, and German Languages, Mathematics, and Commercial Arithmetic, with a complete course of English.

Few Private Schools of long standing have better sustained their reputation for the Intellectual, Moral, and Religious Education of Youth.

Hundreds have been educated in this establishment, among whom are eminent Commercial and Professional Men, who attribute their success to the course of training they received here.

Public Testimony has been frequently borne by others to the Healthy Position and Dignity of the Palmer House.

Increased importance is attached to the Department.

Popular Lectures on various subjects are regularly given.

The "Favorite" Omnibuses from different parts pass the door every few minutes.

The House is situated within five minutes' walk of the North London Railway Station, Great Northern Railway; and North London Railway.

Prospectuses and Testimonials forwarded on application.



EDUCATION.—4, QUEEN'S-PLACE West, HAMMERSMITH, opposite Scott's Park. Twenty Guinea per annum. The MISSES BEAN receive a limited number of YOUNG LADIES for BOARD and INSTRUCTION in English, French, and Music, upon the above terms, where they will receive all the comforts of home.

References to the Parents of Pupils and the following Gentlemen: Rev. W. Miall, Deiston; Rev. H. Bean, Hackney, Wile, Yorkshire; Rev. J. Leechman, M.A., Shadbury-road, Hammersmith; Rev. S. Green, the Grove, Hammersmith; Messrs. Roach and Sons, Southwark; G. Stephenson, Esq., 6, Brook-nock-terrace, Camden-town; F. W. Gerish, Esq., East-road, City-road.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ST. JOHN'S WOOD.
PRINCIPAL—Mr. T. GROSVENOR, L.C.P.

The subjects of Study are those which are essential to a sound and liberal education. The moral and religious training of the Pupils is watched over with unwearied solicitude. The domestic arrangements are such as to afford the comforts and happiness of home.

Prospectuses will be forwarded, on application to Mr. Grosvenor, Albion-road, St. John's-wood.

EDUCATION, LONDON.—Parents seeking superior intellectual cultivation for their daughters, combined with earnest prayerful effort for their spiritual progress, may be supplied with a prospectus stating terms, which are moderate, with a list of first-class Masters in attendance, and with references of the most satisfactory character, by applying to H. V., Post-office, Ladbroke Grove, Notting-hill, London. In addition to the daily careful schoolroom training, the Sabbath teachings of one of the most earnest Evangelical Ministers in London is enjoyed—a Minister whose efforts have for many years been peculiarly blessed and useful to the young.

CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, and COMMERCIAL ACADEMY, THE VALE, RAMSGATE.
Mr. JACKSON, for eleven years Conductor and Principal of the Academy, Witham, Essex, begs to intimate that it is his intention shortly to OPEN a SCHOOL at Ramsgate, where he has secured a very eligible house and premises. He has confidence in appealing to the results of his former labours. The system pursued in his new establishment will continue substantially the same, with such improvements as have suggested themselves during his residence in France and Germany, whose educational institutions and systems he examined with care. His system, in a dition to sound intellectual culture and discipline, gives special attention to the religious and moral principles and habits—to the health, domestic comfort, and happiness of the Pupils. The pleasantness and salubrity of Ramsgate, its facility of access, and the excellent situation of the house, combine, with the system pursued, to render this Establishment well worthy the attention of parents who desire for their children a complete and liberal education. A prospectus, containing further particulars, may be had on application. Reference is kindly permitted to the Rev. H. J. Bevis, Ramsgate; Thos. Phillips, Esq., Bank of England; R. W. Dixon, Esq., Wickham, Witham; David Stow, Esq., Glasgow; and many other educationists, ministers, and parents of former pupils.

ELOCUTION.—Rev. HUGH HUTTON, M.A., announces his intention of resuming his TUITIONS in ELOCUTION in all its branches to Schools, Select Classes, and Private Pupils. Special Instructions given to Clergymen, Students, and others, who are desirous of possessing a distinct, expressive, and forcible delivery in Public Speaking.

Address, No. 2, Provost-road, Adelaide-road, N.W.

NATIONAL PERMANENT MUTUAL BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, 14, MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON. Notice is hereby Given, that after the 30th inst., the Rate of Interest on Advanced Shares will be Six per Cent. per Annum.

By Order of the Executive Committee,

W. E. WHITTINGHAM, Secretary.

April 21st, 1857.

LONDON INVESTMENT COMPANY
(Limited).

Office, 34, MOORGATE-STREET.

Capital 100,000*l.*, in 20,000 Shares of 5*l.* each. Deposit, 1*l.* per Share.

It is not anticipated any further call will be made. This Company is prepared to receive applications for LOANS to any amount for short or long periods, repayable as may be agreed upon, and receive money as deposit, withdrawable on seven days' notice.—Applications for the unallotted Shares, for prospectuses, or any other information relating to the Company, may be made to

ANDREW J. ROBY, Managing Director.

THE CAMBRIAN and UNIVERSAL LIFE and FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital 100,000*l.* Established 1849.

OFFICE, 27, GRESHAM-STREET.

Agencies in the principal towns of England and Wales. This office offers the benefit of insurance in all its branches, and is highly eligible for every description of life assurance.

A new and most important feature entirely originating with this Company, viz., Marriage Dowries, Life Assurance, and Deferred Annuities, included in one policy.

Rates of Premium moderate. Annuities granted. Family endowments. Loans on personal and other securities. Forms of proposal and every information may be obtained on application. By order,

ALFRED MELHADO, Manager.

THE BLESSINGS and EVILS of LIFE ASSURANCE.—See an Address on the Principle of Sustentation, or a Provision for the Prevention of Policies from Lapse by Tabular Rates, circulated gratuitously by the

CONSTITUTION LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, Offices—7, New Coventry-street, London; and 89, George-street, Edinburgh.

For Prospectuses and all information, apply to the Actuary and Manager. FRANCIS NORTON ERITH, London, 1857.

1,000*l.* IN CASE OF DEATH,
A FIXED ALLOWANCE of 6*l.* PER WEEK,
IN THE EVENT OF INJURY BY
ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
may be secured by an Annual Payment of 5*l.* for a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Smaller amounts may be secured by proportionate payments. NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ALONE may be insured against by the Journey, or by the Year, at all the principal Railway Stations; where also Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had—and of the Provincial Agents—and at the Head Office, London.

N.B.—The usefulness of this Company is shown by the sum paid as Compensation for Accidents—25,000*l.*
Railway Passengers' Assurance Company,
Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

Office, 3, Old Broad-street (E.S.)

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1844.

Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the Plan of the BANK OF DEPOSIT.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening accounts sent free on application.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

NATIONAL ASSURANCE and INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION,

3, PALL MALL EAST, LONDON.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 11 Vic. cap. 48.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1844.

Assurances may be effected from 50*l.* to 10,000*l.* on a Single Life.

Credit for half the amount of the first five Annual Premiums. Medical Men remunerated for their Reports.

Liberty to travel and foreign residence greatly extended.

No charge for Stamp Duty on Policies.

NON-PARTICIPATING ASSURANCES.

Assurances may be effected on the NON-PARTICIPATING PRINCIPLE, at very low rates of Premium, payable in a variety of ways, to suit the circumstances and convenience of different classes of Assurers.

ANNUITIES.

Immediate Annuities granted on very favourable terms. The Tables for Reversionary and Deferred Annuities are particularly deserving of attention, whether regarded as a means of providing for a particular individual, or as a resource against the casualties of age and the uncertainties of health and fortune.

Extract from the Half-Credit Rates of Premium for an Assurance of 1000*l.* :—

| Age. | Half Premium first Seven Years. | Whole Premium after Seven Years. |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 25 | £ s. d. 1 0 10 | £ s. d. 2 1 8 |
| 30 | 1 2 6 | 2 5 0 |
| 35 | 1 5 2 | 2 10 4 |
| 40 | 1 9 5 | 2 19 10 |

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses sent free on application.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

32, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

There were received during the year :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---------|----|----|
| 1,199 Proposals to Assure | 257,519 | 0 | 0 |
| And there were issued :— | | | |
| 1,113 Policies, assuring | 240,436 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 Proposals were declined, for | 10,775 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 ditto were under consideration, for | 6,308 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 Immediate Annuities were granted, for | 255 | 13 | 4 |
| The Annual Income is now | 51,389 | 14 | 7 |

The claims arising from deaths during the year, including bonuses, amount to

9,018 13 11

The total amount paid to the widows or other representatives of members deceased since the commencement, is

45,845 9 9

The Accumulated Fund, after deducting the cash bonus paid on the last division of profits, amounts to

110,000 0 0

The appropriation of the 18,000*l.* profits declared at the last division, has been completed during the year, as follows :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|--------|----|----|
| Cash Bonus (27½ per cent. on premiums paid) | 8,195 | 5 | 7 |
| Applied in reduction of premiums | 3,902 | 4 | 3 |
| Ditto in Reversionary Bonuses | 5,902 | 10 | 2 |
| | 18,000 | 0 | 0 |

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT :—

| | Policies issued. | Amount. |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| From Jan. 1847, to end of 1851 | 3,150 | 553,308 |
| From Jan. 1852, to end of 1854 | 3,257 | 679,351 |
| From Jan. 1855, to end of 1856 | 2,605 | 579,011 |
| 10 Years | 9,012 | 1,811,665 |

6,968 Policies are now in force, assuring 1,419,868*l.*

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

ANNUITIES.—Annuities, Immediate and Deferred, are granted by the Directors of the **ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY**, to parties of every age, on equitable terms. The following are illustrations of the Rates :—

Amount of Immediate Annuity granted for every 100*l.* paid to the Company :—

| Age | £ | s. | d. |
|-----|----|----|----|
| 30 | 5 | 18 | 8 |
| 40 | 6 | 12 | 8 |
| 50 | 7 | 11 | 5 |
| 60 | 10 | 7 | 0 |

The general advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per cent. of the profits being divided among the Policy-holders every five years.

The RATES OF PREMIUM, which have been calculated by the Consulting Actuary, are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and will, therefore, be found lower than those adopted by other and earlier institutions.

DIRECTORS.

EDWARD MIALL, Esq., Chairman.

Col. Lothian S. Dickson. J. Bishop Culpepper, Esq.

Adolphus Baker, Esq. Henry Francis Home, Esq.

R. S. Ashton, Esq. James Toleman, Esq.

Thos. Houghton Barrett, Esq.

BANKERS—COMMERCIAL BANK of LONDON.

STANDING COUNSEL.

ROBERT PORRETT COLLIER, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. SHEARD and BAKER, 3, Cloak-lane, City.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—JENKIN JONES, Esq., F.I.A.

MANCHESTER.

DIRECTORS.

JAMES WATTS, Esq., Mayor of Manchester, Chairman.

R. Shorroek Ashton, Esq., J.P. Thomas Roberts, Esq.

William Jenkinson, Esq. Robert Rumney, Esq.

William Martin, Esq. J. Wood, Esq. (Wood & Wright).

William Woodward, Esq.

LOCAL SECRETARY—JOHN KINGSLEY, Esq.

OFFICES—11, DUCIE-PLACE (opposite the Exchange).

BIRMINGHAM.

LOCAL SECRETARY.

DAVID MALINS, jun., Esq., 34, Colmore-row.

Forms of Proposal, Rates of Premium, and any other particulars, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, and at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, London.

H. B. TAPLIN, Secretary.

NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK ASSOCIATION (Limited), 50, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY. Open daily, Ten till Four; also Tuesdays and Saturdays, Six till Eight. Interest on Deposits 3½ per cent.

HENRY HALL DARE, Esq., 90, Albany-street.

FREDERIC DOULTON, Esq., Lambeth, and Manor House, Lambeth Common.

JOHN WILLIAM JAMISON, Esq., 8, Serle-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

RESIDENT DIRECTOR.—J. BEAUMONT HAWKINS, B.A.

RIMMEL'S BENZOLINE moves all spots from Silk, Velvet, Cloth, Carpets, &c. Price 1*s.* Sold by all the Trade.—E. RIMMEL, 39, Gerard-street, Soho, London.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS for a LADY or GENTLEMAN, in a QUIET VILLAGE, Nine miles from London, within five minutes of a Railway Station.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

FLORAL DEVOTION.

EVERYBODY has heard of the language of flowers, very few really understand it. The attempts which have been made to set forth its rudiments by making certain flowers the symbols of certain sentiments, we must in duty stigmatise as a rude and unsuccessful experiment. One and all, they have proceeded from a wrong starting point. They have assumed that each flower expresses a single idea, and no more—whereas they who have much conversed with flowers, know better. Only a single idea! why, they may as well pretend that a baby who can as yet form its little mouth only to say "bah," utters nothing either of desire, affection, delight, anger, or suffering, beyond what that monosyllable may be supposed to express. To the initiated, the language of flowers is as copious as it is sweet. What, in sooth, cannot a flower discourse of, unless it be pollution and sin? What sentiment that may fitly be addressed by one creature to another do not flowers occasionally whisper with their "dulcet and harmonious breath"? Who that has entered into a covenant of friendship with a rose, for instance, has not heard it speak to him in beautiful accordance with the circumstances of the hour—tenderly, wooingly, reproachfully, gaily, proudly, plaintively, devotionally? Have you never seen a flower laugh? Ah! we pity you.—Nor weep? Why, man, where has your heart been? Oh, they are most intelligent companions are flowers, and most communicative to those who understand them; and their conversation, whatever turn it may take, has a strangely soothing and purifying influence upon the human soul.

The language of flowers, however, is nothing but as it is natural, and spontaneous. These beautiful creatures of God's lovingkindness discourse only as *He* bids them—they have no voice for the fantasies of man. Like Balaam, the son of Beor, they "cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of their own mind—but what the Lord saith, that will they speak." The delicious harmonies of the Æolian harp can only be played by the free hand of Nature, and swell into musical significance only beneath her touch. So with flowers—they may assist, aye, and instruct man's piety, but it can only be by those utterances which come forth from them as the delicate organs of the Divine Spirit, for they respond not to human dictations or suggestions. They have their place in the great and various economy destined to fashion the human mind and heart—torn from that place by presumptuous misinterpreters of God's intent, they are torn from their proper use, and become either dumb or discordant. Half the errors of the world, and more than half the heresies of the church, spring out of a self-willed determination on the part of man to improve upon the arrangements of Infinite Wisdom, to alter His combinations, and to force from His creatures a different service from that which He has fitted them to render.

A curious, and, as it strikes us, a melancholy illustration of this will be found in *The Daily News*, of Saturday, under the heading, "Devotional Use of the Camellia." That journal, watchful in exposing the artistic sentimentalism which a section of the Church of England clergy are sedulously foisting upon the public as Christian service, culls from *The Union*, a High-Church contemporary, and strings together in one article, several extracts descriptive of Lenten and Easter celebrations, in various churches, both metropolitan and provincial. In all of these, flowers, and especially the camellia, bear a conspicuous part. Thus, at All Saints, Margaret-street, "clusters of camellias, and other choice flowers were placed between the cross and candlesticks." At St. Ethelburga, Bishopsgate, "vases of flowers were grouped on the steps which form the super-altar, and between the six large candlesticks which surmount the reredos." At St. Matthias, Stoke Newington, "from the centre of the altar rose a majestic pinnacled canopy of white silk bordered with flowers, and enclosing a noble cross of choice flowers." At St. Gabriel's, Warwick-square, the decorations are thus described: "The font, which is of beautiful workmanship, was, last Sunday, wreathed round with flowers very tastefully arranged. At the back of the altar there is a white dossal cloth, with a red centre. On this red centre there is a cross of white camellias of considerable size, and on each side of the altar a wreath of flowers is suspended. The effect produced was most pleasing, and from the overflowing congregations we should judge that such decorations were not unacceptable."

"On Easter Eve, St. Paul's, Brighton," we are told by the same authority, "was again decked in her joyous robes for her greatest festival, presenting a striking contrast to the sombreness of the day before, when the altar was stripped and every ornament removed. The screen was very tastefully decorated with camellias and other exotics of various hues. Over the screen was a very beautiful cross in white camellias, on a blue ground. At the west end of the church were the words, 'Christ is risen, Alleluia,' upon the south side of the church were the words, 'Even so in Christ shall all be made alive,' over a most beautiful cross in red camellias and evergreens. The font was literally covered with flowers."

Now, with every disposition to allow for variety of tastes, this floral exposition of the awful verities of Christianity seems to us a very puerile fancy. There is in it just that sort of prettiness to the eye which, however pleasing to Sunday-school children, is sadly out of place in association with the cross. Beautiful contrasts of colour brought out by camellias and other exotics, harmonise very well with a modern tea party, but they express very indifferently the central fact of Divine revelation. It is not even æsthetic, for nothing is æsthetic which is inappropriate. Neither is this decorative use of flowers in the service of God suggestive—not, at any rate, of high spiritual thoughts. If it carries the mind of the worshipper elsewhere, it is not heavenward—for Heaven never arranged camellias in such fanciful forms—but, we fear, they who most admired, saw reflected in them the ingenious contrivance of fair, and, perhaps, youthful devotees. If there be one emblem more expressive than another of human agony and divine compassion, it is the cross—and to pick it out in white camellias on red cloth, or red camellias on white silk, and display it in a church, strikes us as the very summit of incongruity. None of these scenes, however, was quite perfect in its operative way. To have made it complete, every clergyman who intoned the prayers, or read the lessons, should have held a splendid bouquet in his hand, as some other vocalists do who perform for the pleasure of the public.

After all, we suspect that these floral crosses are symbolical of a great deal of modern Christianity. There is a strong temptation, now-a-days, to substitute beautiful conceits for painful sacrifices, and to express the most mysterious realities

of our faith in respectable prettinesses—to assimilate the devotions of the sanctuary to the elegancies of the boudoir—and to dignify our intercourse with God by conducting it in the spirit of a *petit maître*. Histrionic religion suits the taste of human nature—but nothing takes so well with it as the sacerdotal devices which convert the most humbling lessons into ornamental hieroglyphics. Flowers! Oh, yes, let us have beautiful flowers, fresh and fragrant, rare and exotic, artistically arranged into symbols and sentiments! It is so charming—so *distingué*—so much the opposite of vulgar. Well, there is a deal of modern Christianity, we say, conformed to this pattern—not very solid nor effective, not very self-sacrificing, nor attached to the ancient cross—but superficial and showy, elegant and wonderfully well expressed by a cross of red camellias on white silk—the appropriate fruit of a conservatory gospel.

From the evident pains taken to describe and make public these floral exhibitions of Christian truth, we infer that they have not yet become common in the Church of England, but that a hope is entertained that they may be made so. For our part, tender as is our regard for flowers in their proper sphere, we shall be sorry to have them associated in our thoughts with the stealthy development of priestly power. For this is the end towards which this flowery innovation looks. It is just one of those insidious novelties which tend, if they are not designed, to convert the public worship of God into a performance in which the people are to take no active share, and the priests, surrounded by imposing accessories, are to be the authorised proxies of the multitude. Such, it appears to us, is one of the natural and inevitable tendencies of an established hierarchy—the gradual substitution, in the clergy, of sacerdotal for ministerial functions, and the conversion of worship from a reverent exercise of spiritual affections into a scenic exhibition which "profiteth nothing." The personal and individual dignity of man in his relations to God is thus lulled into a treacherous slumber, and afterwards treated as a rebel against constituted spiritual authority—as Sampson was first lured to lay his head in the lap of Delilah, and was then shorn of his manly strength, and condemned to grind corn in the mill of the Philistines. 'Tis sad to think, but it is too true, that death may be met with even among flowers.

PROPOSED CHURCH-RATE COMPROMISE.

In three different quarters there has appeared the same suggestion for the settlement of the Church-rate grievance. It is embodied in the following extract from a letter to *The Times*, written by Mr. Lopes, a lawyer of Lincoln's-inn. After admitting the injustice of calling upon Dissenters to contribute towards the means of carrying out Divine worship in the Establishment, he says:—

I would therefore propose that the expenditure requisite for the maintenance of the actual fabric of the church and the buildings thereto belonging should, as heretofore, be defrayed by a Church-rate levied on the community at large, irrespective of and without reference to their religious opinions, but that the other miscellaneous expenses incidental to the performance of Divine worship in the church should be discharged by a pew-rate, or some other rate which would fall exclusively on the members of the Established Church. By these means the building of the church as national property, would be maintained at the cost of the nation, while the charges of carrying out its peculiar form of worship would be borne only by its members and those who participate in its services.

The same idea is thrown out by "Lanfranc," a correspondent of *The Daily News* (perhaps the identical writer in *The Times*), as well as by the Rev. Mr. Campbell, rector of Liverpool. The latter, however, proposes to make a local act general in its operations, by which the church expenditure will be limited to the necessary church repairs, and the essentials of Divine worship, as defined by the Royal Commission of 1832; and the general vestry annually elect a Church-Expenditure Committee,

including the churchwardens, to defray the expenses thus limited and defined "out of the parochial rates and taxes."

The correspondent of *The Times* expresses a doubt, whether this new, and, to our mind, somewhat impertinent scheme after the adoption of the principle of Sir W. Clay's Bill by the House of Commons last year, would "satisfy the whole Nonconforming community." We agree with him. It would satisfy few, if any. The plan maintains in full force the principle of Church-rates, and if it is to apply to large parishes in which they have long ceased to be collected, would actually provide for their extension.

Mr. Lopes makes bold to affirm that "the greater part of the Nonconforming community confess their readiness to contribute towards the maintenance of the edifice of the church as a part of the property of the nation." We are curious to know whence he got the information. The churches of the land are, indeed, as he says, "the property of the nation;" but one half of the nation has no interest in them. Episcopalians are the tenants in possession. Is it, then, so very unreasonable to require the occupants of these national edifices to keep them in repair during their tenantry? Are Dissenters so very unjust in asking a Church possessing enormous wealth, and which has a special fund saved out of her abundance to spend upon Bishop's palaces and Curates' stipends, to find its own fund also for the repair of buildings which are, after all, only the loan of the nation? Long ago Nonconformists, had they been favourable, might have obtained such a settlement as that now proposed by Mr. Campbell and Mr. Lopes. It is less fair to them than the scheme of Dr. Phillimore, or even of the Leicestershire squire, Mr. Packe, both of whom acknowledged the injustice of requiring Dissenters to pay Church rates. These gentlemen have strangely mistaken the spirit of the times, and the patent facts of the late election, if they imaginethat Nonconformists will, for an instant, listen to a proposal which is as objectionable in principle as the system at present in operation.

OUR CHURCH RATE RECORD.

JUSTICES' JUSTICE IN ESSEX.

The Rev. C. Winter, the Independent Minister of Southminster, Essex, was summoned before the magistrates of the Hundred of Dengie, Essex, on Saturday, the 11th instant, for the payment of Church-rates. Mr. Bennett, solicitor, of London, attended for Mr. Winter. The Bench consisted of the Rev. W. Holland, chairman, the Rev. E. R. Horwood, J. O. Parker, Esq., and T. D. Tatham, Esq. The Rev. G. C. Berkeley, the Vicar of Southminster, was also there as one of the magistrates of the district, though he apparently took no part in the decision. The churchwarden, Mr. Kemp, was sworn, and proved the notice calling the vestry meeting, and produced the rate-book and minute-book. The latter stated that "the churchwarden having laid an estimate before the vestry" a rate was proposed, &c. Having been previously instructed that the estimate contained illegal items, and was also retrospective, and bad in other respects, Mr. Bennett required it to be produced, which the churchwarden refused to do, and Mr. Bennett thereupon appealed to the bench to order him to do so, but they refused; alleging that they were satisfied, from the minute-book and rate-book, that the rate was good on the face of it, and that they had nothing to do but to order payment. Mr. Bennett protested against this as illegal, showing that the rate and minute-books were not conclusive, and that the entry in the minute-book having referred to the estimate, he had a right to ask for it—that it was the very foundation of the churchwarden's case, and that until it was produced, it was impossible to tell whether the rate was good or bad—that the magistrates' summons being founded upon an introductory averment that the rate "was duly made as by law in that behalf required," that averment must be proved—and that the bench ran a great personal risk in ordering a warrant for an illegal rate—and that if the estimates were produced, it would be found that they contained illegal items, which would make the rate bad. To this they replied, that the proper time and place to object to those items was at the vestry meeting; to which it was answered, that even if Mr. Winter had done this, it would not prevent him from now objecting to them, because there were many items that no consent of the vestry could make legal; and in order that the magistrates might have no excuse for deciding contrary to law, he read the judgment of Dr. Lushington on the subject, in *Gathercole v. Wade*, Burns' Ecclesiastical Law, 388 a.

They then retired with their clerk, and came back and stated that they had decided that the estimate should not be produced. Determined not to be put off, but to make another effort to get at the particulars of the mysterious estimate, Mr. Bennett proceeded to cross-examine the churchwarden, and asked him if the estimate did not contain an item for *visitation feasts*. He said "Yes," then hesitated a little and said "No," and then twirling and wriggling about, jerked out, "but I won't be drawn into it!" and refused to answer further. The question was repeated, and he still refused to give any answer. Mr. Bennett then appealed to the bench to compel him to answer, but they refused, and decided that Mr. Bennett had no right to ask the question. A

sort of battle between the bench and the advocate then ensued, the latter protesting warmly against the gross injustice of not allowing him to cross-examine the witness, who had been sworn and examined for the prosecution, particularly after his admission that the estimate contained an item which rendered the whole rate illegal, but it was of no avail.

Finding that the bench would hear nothing against the rate, Mr. Bennett gave the notice required by the 53rd Geo. III., c. 127, disputing the validity of the rate, and denying their jurisdiction. This led to another lengthened retirement, and they then decided that in consequence of the notice they had no jurisdiction, and could make no order.

A desultory conversation followed, in which regrets were expressed at such a result, which were not relieved by being told that this was the consequence of their own proceedings, and that strenuous efforts had been made to get the whole case brought out before them, and have it decided cheaply and expeditiously before five justices of the peace, instead of being driven to the odious procedure of a Medieval Court in Doctors' Commons, but that the churchwarden having declined the battle, and the bench having supported him in it, the blame was theirs and not the defendant's.

In the course of this conversation, Mr. Kemp, the churchwarden, was publicly charged with having the estimate in his pocket, but he made no reply, nor would the magistrates even then call upon him to produce it.

As Mr. Bennett's applications and objections were made one after another, he called upon the chairman to take a note of them, for the purpose of ulterior measures; but his appeals were utterly disregarded. The clerk to the magistrates very politely telling him that he might take his own notes if he liked.

Mr. Winter's attendance on Saturday was, in fact, an adjournment of the summons, which was first heard on the 28th March. On that occasion, only two justices were present, the Rev. W. Holland and the Rev. G. C. Berkeley, the clergyman of the parish in question. As Mr. Bennett could not be present, Mr. Winter applied for an adjournment. These two magistrates then retired with Mr. Kemp, the churchwarden, and at length, with great reluctance acceded to Mr. Winter's request; so that if he had not saved them in spite of themselves, the case must have been adjudicated upon by the clergyman of the very parish in question, determined to support his own churchwarden and the vestry meeting of which he was chairman. The result is that Mr. Kemp did not get the Church-rate he wanted, but did get an ecclesiastical suit looming in the future.

DUDLEY.—At the vestry meeting for this town on the 14th, the churchwardens declared that there was no intention to ask for a Church-rate. The Chairman (Rev. A. Williams) remarked that matters were satisfactorily settled by the congregation without a rate, and they (the congregation) being very well satisfied with the present state of things, proposed to go on and maintain the church as at present by subscriptions. In answer to Mr. Cook, the Chairman pledged himself that no rate would be asked for, and the regular business was then proceeded with.

LIVERPOOL.—At the annual vestry meeting, the Rev. Rector Campbell in the chair, a voluntary parochial rate, instead of a compulsory one, for the repair of the church, ringing of bells, &c., was, after a lengthened discussion, carried; Mr. Woodruff stating that the entire voluntary rate levied last year, if collected, would amount to 2,396l. 10s. 5d.; that there had been collected, 1,703l. 7s. 11d.; that there had been excused, from poverty, 336l. 15s.; and on account of empty property, 96l. 13s. 1d.; leaving an amount to be recovered, or irrecoverable, according to circumstances, of 86l. 16s. 9d. Two gentlemen who wished to test the legality of the rate had refused to pay it, and by consent were sued, and the question was then awaiting the decision of the magistrates.

SHOTWICK, NEAR CHESTER.—In this little village a rate has been refused by twenty-seven to seven.

ST. PETER'S, IPSWICH.—In this parish an amendment was carried in vestry on the motion of Mr. J. Fison, seconded by Mr. H. M. Burton—"That the vestry declines to make any rate, and requests the churchwardens to propose some other mode of obtaining the requisite funds." A polling then took place. The chairman, the Rev. H. I. Lumsden, refused taking the votes of all persons whose rates were paid by the landlord, although he was referred to the opinions of Sir Fitzroy Kelly and Mr. Hayes, that they ought to be taken. At the close of the poll, the Chairman declared the majority opposed to the amendment to be sixty-four; but had the votes been taken to which he unfairly objected, the majority was but twelve. Surely (says *The Suffolk Chronicle*) this will be a sufficient lesson to the churchwardens not to disturb the peace of the parishioners by forcing upon them so unjust a tax.

TWYKESBURY.—We have just concluded a Church-rate contest here, resulting in the abandonment of the rate, though not till every possible effort to obtain it had been resorted to by the churchwardens. First beaten at vestry on the proposition for a 2d. rate for the repair of the abbey building by forty-four to thirty-four, they demanded a poll. At the poll the small tenements occupiers' votes were at first refused, and subsequently taken under protest. First day's poll left the pro-rate party in minority upwards of 140. This unexpected issue roused the men of compulsion to frantic exertions on the second and final day. The screw was put on in every available instance. All kinds of dubious voters were brought up, even to aged charity women living undisturbed

in almshouse property, unrated and unrateable. Notwithstanding these extraordinary efforts the numbers at the close of the poll stood—For the rate, 500; against the rate, 505: majority against the rate, 5. The excitement throughout the two days was intense, the thoroughfares leading to the polling place being thronged with people, who only separated on being informed that a scrutiny of the votes must be made, and was appointed for the Monday following. This took place on the 13th instant. The Dissenters were represented by Mr. Dawson, of London; the churchwardens by Mr. Moore, town clerk of Tewkesbury. The result of the first day's scrutiny telling against themselves, the pro-rate party issued a bill early the following morning abandoning further proceedings at present. They since tell us it will be all the same, for they now intend to throw the repairs on the corporation, which they say they can legally do, as the abbey belongs to the town, under a gift from one of the kings.

WILLINGHAM.—A vestry meeting for this parish was held on Tuesday, the 14th inst. Warned by past defeat, the churchwardens brought nothing into their accounts connected with the cleaning or repairing of the interior of the church, nor for carrying on the worship, but confined themselves to the necessary repairs of the fabric, and of the wall enclosing the churchyard, and for which they asked a penny rate. This is the only burial ground in the village, and Dissenters felt a common interest and desire with Churchmen that the wall should be kept in good repair; but were not at all disposed to consent to a rate on that account. They therefore told the church-party that, though they held Churchmen bound in honour to keep the church in repair themselves, so long as they had the sole use of it, and paid the country no rent, yet, for the sake of getting them to start upon the voluntary principle, they would subscribe to the repairs of both the wall and the church, if the rate was given up and the voluntary system adopted. The proposal was accepted, and the expenses have in this way been fully met. The result therefore to which we have here arrived, is, that the attempt to charge upon Dissenters the expenses connected with the worship of Churchmen is abandoned, and the necessary repairs of the fabric of the church are placed upon the voluntary principle.

FLORAL DECORATIONS IN PUSEYITE CHURCHES.

From a collection of reports of Lenten and Easter celebrations, given by our High Church contemporary, *The Union*, we gather a few particulars illustrating the part assigned to floral decoration in many of our churches.

At St. Gabriel's, Warwick-square, "the font, which is of beautiful workmanship, was, last Sunday, wreathed round with flowers very tastefully arranged. At the back of the altar there is a white dossal cloth, with a red centre. On this red centre there is a cross of white camellias of considerable size, and on each side of the altar a wreath of flowers is suspended. The effect produced was most pleasing, and from the overflowing congregations we should judge that such decorations were not unacceptable."

At St. Andrew's, Wells-street, "the decorations were most tastefully designed. Over the altar, on the top of the reredos, is a legend in scarlet letters on a white ground, 'Jesus Christ is risen to-day, Hallelujah!'—under which is a string-course of box and hyacinths. In the niches of the reredos are St. Andrew's crosses of red and white camellias contrasted, the ground-work of box. On the super-altar are four vases filled with the choicest flowers. On each side of the reredos is a festoon of cedar, and a Latin cross of ivy and white camellias. The pulpit has a frieze of fir and white camellias; the font, a border of cedars decorated with flowers. The soffits of the arches are covered with fir and yew, and the four columns have crossed wreaths of box with camellias at the intersections. The front of the west gallery has a Latin cross of ivy and flowers; the gas standards, wreaths of box and flowers."

Of All Saints, Margaret-street, we read:—"The altar never looked more beautiful. Clusters of camellias and other choice flowers were placed between the cross and candlesticks, and flowers in abundance were distributed throughout the building."

At St. Ethelburga, Bishopsgate—"Vases of flowers were grouped on the steps which form the super-altar, and between the six large candlesticks which surmount the reredos. Legends suitable for the occasion ornamented the other parts of the church. Monday and Tuesday were also duly observed."

At St. Matthias, Stoke Newington—"Under the west window was the text 'The Lord is risen'; on each side of the west door were crosses with scrolls, 'O Death, where is thy sting?' 'O Grave, where is thy victory?' Along the top of the aisle walls ran the texts: 'All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting'; 'Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory'; 'Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ'; 'Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father'; 'Day by day we magnify Thee.' The mouldings of the nave and chancel aisles were chastely traced out with evergreens, and the gas standards wreathed. From the centre of the altar rose a majestic pinnacled canopy of white silk bordered with flowers, and enclosing a noble cross of choice flowers; over the string course was the text, 'Alleluia, the Lord is risen, Alleluia,' and on the spaces on each side of the altar was a foliated design."

Passing from the metropolis to the provinces, we find that "At St. Peter's, Plymouth, during Lent up to Good Friday, the altar and chancel was vested in violet. On Good Friday, the altar cross over the altar and all the hangings in the church were of black.

The organ was stopped and the services all said in monotone. On Easter Eve the change was most striking. The church was profusely and tastefully decorated with flowers. A white embroidered cloth adorned the altar; and the rich cross of white marble, overlaid with elaborately cut gilt metal work, was again uncovered and the hangings were withdrawn from the gold diapered reredos. The general effect when the church was illuminated for the festival was striking in the extreme. The first celebration, which was choral, was at eight a.m. The choir duly vested walked up the centre of the church singing, as an introit, the hymn, 'Jesus Christ is risen to-day.' The number of communicants at the first celebration was seventy-three, who appeared most thoroughly to enter into the spirit of the festival. The enjoined lights were burning on the super-altar, though the legal vestments for the celebrant at Holy Communion have not yet been adopted."

The last statement, it should be noticed, means that the priests celebrating Holy Communion on this occasion were dressed in the usual garments.

We are further told that "on Easter Eve, St. Paul's, Brighton, was again decked in her joyous robes for her greatest festival, presenting a striking contrast to the sombreness of the day before, when the altar was stripped and every ornament removed. The screen was very tastefully decorated with camellias and other exotics of various hues. Over the screen was a very beautiful cross in white camellias, on a blue ground. At the west end of the church were the words, 'Christ is risen, Alleluia;' upon the south side of the church were the words, 'Even so in Christ shall all be made alive,' over a most beautiful cross in red camellias and evergreens. The office commenced on Saturday night at nine, when the choristers and clergy formed a procession round the church singing the Third Hymn for Easter. The prayers were intoned throughout. The anthem was by Dr. Crotch, 'Sing we merrily to God our strength.' The Third Hymn for Easter was again sung before the sermon, which was preached by the Rev. A. D. Wagner. During the offertory the choir sang Handel's 'Worthy is the Lamb' and the Alleluia. On Sunday morning the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist took place at half-past six, when the choristers and clergy again formed a procession round the church, singing the Third Hymn for Easter. Another celebration took place at eight, and another after matins, which were sung at half-past ten. Altogether, 570 persons received the Holy Communion on Easter-day. The Litany was chanted at a quarter to four in the afternoon. Evensong commenced at seven, when the church was again brilliantly lit up. The service of the eve was repeated. The church was crowded to overflowing at all the general services."

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE CHURCH DISPUTE.—Mr. Westerton has written to the papers to say that the inference from a recent judgment of the Privy Council "that now the sacramental party must leave the Church of England"—occurring in the reports of his speech was his own, and not that of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as might be suggested by the construction of the report.

NEW SPIRITUAL PEER.—Dr. Bickersteth, the recently appointed Bishop of Ripon, will take his seat in the House of Lords immediately after the consecration of Mr. Pelham to the Bishopric of Norwich. Until Dr. Bickersteth's introduction, Dr. Baring (Gloucester and Bristol) will take all the duties of junior bishop.

WELSH-SPEAKING BISHOPS.—Letters from Lord John Russell and the Earl of Derby, relative to the appointment in Wales of Bishops who know Welsh, are published by the Rev. W. Morgan Middleton. Both statesmen are in favour of the Welsh Bishops understanding the language of the principality; but Lord John Russell does not see the necessity for all Welsh Bishops being natives of Wales.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF MINISTERS, LONDON.—The annual meeting of the board was held on Tuesday evening, the 14th inst. The Rev. Thomas James and the Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., having fulfilled their office as chairman and deputy-chairman respectively, the ballot was taken for their successors, when the Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., was chosen as chairman, and the Rev. George Wilkins deputy-chairman, for the ensuing year. The Rev. R. Ashton was re-elected as general secretary of the board, and the Rev. I. Vale Mummery, F.R.A.S., the secretary of finance. Votes of thanks to the officers were passed unanimously, and especially to the Rev. George Wilkins, for his devoted services of ten years to the financial duties of his office, which he had that evening resigned.

WHAT NEXT?—A correspondent of *The Union* (Puseyite) suggests that the recent terrible accident on the Canadian Railway was a providential retribution for the secularization of the Canada Church estates (Clergy Reserves).

Religious Intelligence.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, HILL-STREET, PECKHAM.—On Wednesday, April 15th, this place of worship was re-opened, having been considerably enlarged. The Rev. Dr. Steane preached in the afternoon. In the evening, a public meeting was held, when the Rev. R. W. Betts, presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. H. J. Betts, G. Moyle, J. G. Pigg, J. Hopwood, J. Pearse, E. Whimper, R. May, and Henry Potter, Esq. From the report, it appears that the Baptist church here originated about three

years ago, with a few Baptist friends, holding open communion principles. In December, of last year, the Rev. Thomas J. Cole, late of Paradise Chapel, Chelsea, became the minister, and the congregation, having since then considerably increased, it was felt necessary to obtain larger space, and the present structure has been erected to meet that want; this has involved an outlay of nearly 250*l.*, of which at present only a small sum has been collected.

BAPTIST MISSIONS.—The Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, E. B. Underhill, Esq., has arrived in England in good health, after a two years' visit to the mission stations of India. He is to speak at the annual meeting of the society at Exeter Hall.

BANBURY.—On Friday last, April 3, the new Independent chapel in this town was opened for Divine worship. The Rev. T. Binney, of London, preached in the morning, and the Rev. E. T. Pust, of Northampton, in the evening. Dinner and tea were provided in the school-room. In the afternoon a public meeting was held. The Rev. J. Sibree, of Coventry, presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Binney, Pust, Parker, of Banbury, Percy, of Warwick; Thomas, of Wellingtonborough; and Mr. Eyles, of London. The Rev. J. Parker, minister of the chapel, handsomely acknowledged the architectural services of Mr. Eyles, who, it appears, prepared all the drawings and specifications after his own professional duties in connection with the Great Western Railway were discharged each day, and liberally presented them to the committee free of expense. The building was eulogised by all the visitors from Leamington, Oxford, Warwick, Coventry, and other places less remote. The proceeds of the entire services of Friday and Sunday amounted to more than 60*l.* The chapel is built in the Grecian Doric style. The school-room is confessedly the best in the neighbourhood, and the situation is the most commanding which could be found in Banbury.

BLACKBURN.—On Friday morning week, the members of the Park-road Congregational Church assembled at ten o'clock in Park-school, and walked from thence in procession to Chapel-street, where an eloquent and interesting sermon was preached by the Rev. John Kelly, of Liverpool. At the close of the service, a collection was made, amounting to 10*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* The congregation and other friends then returned in procession to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the intended new church. The proceedings commenced by singing a hymn, after which the Rev. E. W. Shalders engaged in prayer. The Rev. R. Slate, of Preston, the oldest minister in the county, then addressed the audience upon the reasons why they were Congregationalists. The Rev. M. Macfie, in suitable terms, in the name of the church and congregation, then presented James Pilkington, Esq., M.P., with a silver trowel, bearing a suitable inscription, and a mallet. Under the stone were deposited several coins of the realm, a copy of a local newspaper of recent date, and documents containing an account of the church and congregation, together with the names of the minister, officers, and members of the building committee. The stone being laid, James Pilkington, Esq., M.P., delivered an appropriate address, after which the audience enthusiastically gave three hearty hurrahs. The Rev. F. Skinner then briefly congratulated the audience upon the occasion on which they were called together. W. Hoole, Esq., then called upon all present to give three cheers for her Majesty, which was speedily responded to, and after three cheers had been given to the mayor, the proceedings terminated with singing the Doxology, and the large assembly dispersed.

CALEDONIAN-ROAD CHAPEL, LONDON.—On Friday, the 10th instant, the members of this congregation, to the number of nearly 400, took tea together in the schoolroom. The Rev. Ebenezer Davies, minister of the chapel, occupied the chair; and the Rev. Charles Latham, of Romford, offered prayer. Communications expressive of the kindest feeling, and of regret at unavoidable absence, were received from the Revs. James Dean, James Fitt, W. T. Wild, Isaac Doxey, Robert Ainslie, and other gentlemen. Gratifying reports of the various organisations connected with the chapel were given. The Sunday school, during the past year, had more than doubled, the usual attendance having reached about 470 children, and there was no lack of teachers. At the last church meeting, eight new members had been received, and ten were proposed. It also appeared that since the pastor's restoration to health, i.e., during the last nine months, there had been a greater increase in the congregation, and about 100 additional sittings had been let. Excellent addresses were delivered by the Revs. Joseph Ketley, Charles Latham, T. B. Barker, H. Hatch, and Mr. Robert Hood Haggie, one of the deacons.

CHESHUNT COLLEGE.—REV. DR. ALLIOTT.—IN-AUGURAL SERVICES.—The entrance of Dr. Allott upon his official duties as theological tutor of Cheshunt College was marked by a special service, last Thursday evening, in Islington Chapel. The students of the college were present. The Rev. Dr. Tidman, who was to have offered the designation prayer, was prevented from being present by indisposition. The proceedings were commenced by singing a hymn; after which the Rev. G. Jones, of Tunbridge Wells, read the Scriptures and offered prayer. The Rev. Henry Allon gave a deeply interesting statement of facts in reference to the past history and present circumstances of the college. He stated that the college was full of students, and that applications for admission to it are continually being made. At the close of this historical sketch, the Rev. Dr. Allott stated his reasons for accepting

the theological professorship, in the course of which, he said:—

The college, as we have already heard, was originally founded under the patronage of the late Countess of Huntingdon, whose praise is in all the churches. I rejoice to believe that all the churches of the Connection are sound in the faith, and that their ministers all preach Christ and him crucified. I have intimately known and loved some of them, and trust that God will eminently bless them all. Any well-qualified young man sent by them will be cordially welcomed by me; and it will be matter of thankfulness to me if the college raises up holy and devoted men to fill their vacant pulpits. I trust it will also raise up an efficient body of ministers as heretofore for our Congregational pulpits, and perhaps for pulpits too in other connections. I rejoice that the articles of faith laid down in the trust deed are so Scriptural and Evangelical. Whilst these articles continue, as I trust will ever be the case, to express the conscientious convictions of tutors and students, the college must be perfectly free from the imputation of what has been termed negative Theology.

The Rev. B. S. Hollis then offered the designation prayer, and the Rev. James Sherman, of Blackheath, addressed Dr. Allott. The Rev. John Stoughton then urged the claim of the college. He had to perform the same duty, which he had discharged eight years ago on Dr. Allott's settlement at Plymouth. Then his beloved and lamented friend Dr. Harris delivered the charge, and he, as now, addressed the people. He could very earnestly press the claims of this college upon them on account of its great and increasing usefulness. The one great aim of the committee and the tutors was to produce really good ministers of Jesus Christ. They regarded the qualifications for a minister as threefold—spiritual, natural, and literary. The ministers of Christ must be men of piety, faithful, devout, humble, prayerful, and believing. They must also have a good natural understanding; there must be a soil capable of tillage and yield a rich harvest in return for the cultivation bestowed. The literary qualifications, the college proposed to give them. The rev. gentleman then proceeded to enlarge upon these ideas, and concluded by addressing most valuable advice to the students present. The Rev. John Watson, of Hackney, then closed the proceedings with prayer. The weather during the day was most unpropitious, and prevented the presence of many friends.

CHINA.—The following is an extract from a letter received by the last mail from Dr. Wong Fun, native medical missionary in the service of the London Missionary Society at Hong Kong. Dr. Wong Fun pursued a regular course of surgical and medical instruction at Edinburgh, and graduated with distinguished honour at that University. He writes under date, Hong Kong, February 13th, 1857, as follows: "I am thankful that I have escaped being poisoned by arsenic; the people here were poisoned on the morning of the 15th, and I arrived in the afternoon. Information must have long before this reached you of the state of affairs at Hong Kong, and of the sudden stand of all work—both of missionaries and of others. My disappointment, you must conceive, was very great, as I heard, at one time, that there was to be not only a temporary cessation of work, but that the hospital at Canton was completely destroyed. Dr. Hobson gave up all hope of renewing his labours in that city, but just before he left for Shanghai, Aking, his assistant, came over and told us that the hospital is still in good condition, and that it was spared, no doubt, from gratitude for the service rendered, or rather, the benefits received."

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.—Hope is entertained, that at the annual meeting in May next, measures will be adopted with a view to revive and extend the efforts of this long-established Society. Public meetings of the associations at Craven Chapel, Waltham Abbey, and Spencer-place, have recently been held, and attended by the secretaries. A course of lectures to the working classes was delivered at King Edward School-room, Mile-end New-town, by Rev. Dr. Massie, Rev. Charles Stovel, Rev. R. H. Smith, Rev. L. H. Byrnes, B.A., and the Rev. W. Tyler. Agents were employed in and around Greenwich-park, during the Easter week, in the distribution of religious tracts.

CITY OF LONDON RAGGED SCHOOLS.—The annual meeting of the Foster-street, Long-alley District Ragged Schools, was held on Thursday evening at the London Tavern. Mr. Sheriff Mechi presided, and opened the proceedings by calling upon the children, who were assembled to the number of about a hundred and fifty, in the gallery, to sing a hymn, which they accomplished in excellent time and tune. From the report, it appeared that the society continued to contribute its former amount of usefulness. The school in Foster-street, Long-alley, furnished daily accommodation for 200 children, residents of the back streets and alleys. From the commencement of the schools in 1848, the number of children admitted was 2,779. During the past year there had been an average morning attendance of boys, 45; an evening attendance of 55; of girls the evening attendance was 40; of infants, morning and afternoon, 98. During the year, also, 12 boys and 13 girls, of these schools, had gone out to situations, to which they had been recommended; and three boys and one girl had been awarded prizes by the Ragged School Union for subsequent good conduct. On Sundays, the school was used for the instruction of 200 children, to which number the size of the building formed a limit which it was hoped would soon be removed. The penny bank had received contributions from 189 children, amounting to 95*l.* The bank was established in 1853; and in 1856 the deposits amounted to as large a sum as the total of the previous three years. Treats had been given to the children during the year. There had been an ex-

cursion to Epping Forest, a tea party with the magic lantern, as an afterpiece; and fifty admissions given by the directors of the Zoological Gardens. Everything, in fact, was prosperous except the funds. 39*l.* were due to the treasurer, the subscription amounting to only 80*l.*, and the remainder of the expenditure (amounting to 200*l.* and upwards) being made up by casual donations. To meet the deficiency, the committee urged an appeal by the subscribers to their friends and neighbours. To this a response was at once made. The chairman immediately offered a gift of 5*l.* 6*s.* In the course of his remarks, Mr. Sheriff Mechi mentioned the very interesting fact that the average cost of the education given in the Ragged Schools does not exceed 1*l.* for each child. Mr. Thomas Piper, the Rev. W. Whittimore, Mr. Samuel Lucas, Mr. John Green, Mr. Hopgood, and others addressed the meeting; and the awarded prizes, consisting of articles of clothing, were then handed over to the children whose conduct had marked them out for the distinction.

FAREWELL MISSIONARY MEETING.—On Wednesday evening last the members of the Young Men's Association in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society, met in the library of the Mission House to take leave of the Rev. James Allen and Mrs. Allen previous to their sailing for Ceylon. There was a large attendance, and after tea, Dr. Angus presided. The proceedings were of a deeply interesting character, and were rendered additionally so by the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Underhill, and the Rev. J. Davis, of Ceylon, who were cordially welcomed on their return from the East. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. J. Russell, John Leechman, M.A., and J. Davis, and Messrs. E. B. Underhill, James Harvey, B. L. Green, W. Dickes, and W. Heaton. The principal sentiment of the evening was spoken to by the two last-named gentlemen, and was as follows:—"The departing Missionaries—may our brother and sister (Mr. and Mrs. Allen) in once more leaving their fatherland to undertake the toils and difficulties of missionary life, experience many encouraging tokens of the Divine approval. May their minds be sustained by the felt presence of Him who has said, 'Lo, I am with you alway.' May they be graciously preserved to reach their destination, and when again engaged in efforts to bless the heathen, may great success be granted them, and the grace of God be exceeding abundant towards them through our Lord Jesus Christ." To this sentiment, Mr. Allen responded. He earnestly entreated that he and his wife and their four children whom they leave behind in England (and in referring to whom he was much overcome) might be remembered by all at the throne of grace. After a few words from Dr. Angus, the meeting was closed by singing and prayer.

MEETING OF WORKING MEN AT SURREY CHAPEL.—On Monday evening, April 13, there was a large attendance of the working classes to hear addresses on the temperance question from a chimney sweep, a blacksmith, and a tailor. The Rev. Newman Hall took the chair, and after showing that this was specially a working man's question, and essentially connected with their social and moral elevation, he introduced the speakers, who were received with loud applause. Mr. Hefry, chimney-sweep, contrasted his state when a frequenter of the tap-room with his present condition. He was now, through temperance, a teacher in a Sunday school. He had, on his own responsibility, opened a temperance hall and mechanics' institute. He had established a penny bank, where the weekly deposits were 5*l.* or 6*l.* from 300 depositors; and although he was poor, he was trusted because he was a teetotaler. He thought a day wasted in which some good was not done. Drunkards seldom did anything for the good of others. Let them sign the pledge, and employ part of the time and money they would save in doing good. Society was like a chain—they all depended on each other—and all went wrong if the links were cut asunder. They should all try to help one another.—Mr. Cort, blacksmith, delivered an eloquent oration on the importance of temperance to the working-classes. The drunkard's home was too often only the tap-room of the public house. It was not so at the beginning of married life. All was then tidy and snug. It was the home of love. Four square walls, though gilded and hung with pictures, did not constitute home. Home is where hearts are bound together in love. A British workman should be proud of his home, for it is his industry which furnishes it. But alas! how many turn home into a scene of disgrace and misery! He knew many who could earn 3*l.* a week, who had nothing left in their pocket on Monday morning. Why not save the public house money? If they invest it in beer and spirits, they get knocks from pewter pots and rolls in the gutter for interest. Instead of a sum to draw on in old age, old age draws on them in the prime of life. Let the drunkard try to reform and pray for God's help. Little strokes cut down strong oaks. Begin! It was no sin to be poor, but a great sin to make themselves poor. Alison says that whatever undermines the virtue of a people tends to their downfall. Drunkenness was doing this in England. There was a country in the south, once the emporium of arts and arms. It conquered the world. The hurdy-gurdy boys in the streets are a symbol of its present state. Poor down-trodden Italians! Yet they taught us a lesson. When they were receiving high wages, they did not squander the money in drink, but purchased plots of land; and when England became the workshop of the world and took away their trade, they went to live on their freeholds. There are now 120,000 small estates on the slopes of the Apennines, where grow the olive, the melon, and the grape, the best cultivated spot in Italy. Should England lose her trade, what would become of her workmen? But if this

one item of expenditure were saved—(upwards of sixty millions), what a bright day would dawn—a prelude of a brighter day hereafter! Mr. Benn, tailor, related that his grandfather, from whom he inherited his trade as well as his name, came to London as a young man, and found work in a large shop. "Have you worked before in London?" "No!"—"Then there's pints,"—that is, a pint for each man, and as there were forty-five men, his grandfather had to pay for this quantity. The next day he was told that the foreman was so extraordinary a man that he could keep his leg in boiling water for half-an-hour. This being doubted, a wager of "pints" was accepted. The next day the foreman's leg was immersed in boiling water, and he was none the worse—the leg was of cork! Then one of the workmen said, "Have you ever sewed gold braid?" "No!" "O you should know how—it will be very useful—I shall be glad to show you." His grandfather thankfully accepted the offer. "You say you have never sewed gold braid before? Then there's pints!" A third time he had to pay for forty-five pints. Whereon he was so frightened, that he went off next morning into Norfolk! Mr. Benn entreated the working men to break away from habits which thus enslaved and degraded them. The Chairman in his closing speech, denied that they put temperance in the place of the Gospel. On the contrary, they regarded the Gospel as the only means of salvation, and therefore they strove to break down those habits which acted like a barrier, keeping multitudes away from Gospel influences. The meeting was closed with prayer, after which many working men crowded into the vestry to sign the pledge.

OFFORD-ROAD CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.—The above new chapel was opened for public worship on Thursday, the 16th inst. The sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Landels, of Regent's-park, and the Rev. Thomas Lloyd, A. M. Henderson, E. P. Hood, and Dr. Hewlett, took part in the service. The chapel is capable of accommodating about 800 adults besides children, and is comfortably fitted up with open commodious pews, with crimson cushions, and has a very spacious gallery. The whole is brilliantly lighted with gas, by means of a central chandelier and several burners around the walls. After the afternoon service, about 400 persons partook of tea, provided in the spacious schoolroom under the chapel. In the course of the proceedings an elegant and highly finished time-piece, in gold ormolu, was presented to G. Cuthbertson, Esq., the chairman and treasurer of the building committee, in testimony of their high appreciation of his valuable services. Mr. C. was very warmly greeted as the testimonial was presented to him, and at the close of his address the whole assembly renewed their plaudits with great enthusiasm. At seven o'clock, the public meeting was held in the chapel, which was presided over by G. Hitchcock, Esq. The chairman, in his opening address, which was much applauded, congratulated the church and congregation upon the completion of their labours, and urged them to devote all their energies to the spread of Divine truth all around. At the close of his remarks, the General Secretary, Mr. William Draper, read a lengthened report of the proceedings of the committee, from the commencement of their labours. It stated that the foundation-stone was laid by Apsey Pellatt, Esq., on the 5th of August, and the building was roofed in, and the schoolroom opened for public worship, on the 30th of November. The church, which, when formed, consisted of 42 members, was now doubled, the Sabbath school largely increased, and the congregation had become so large that it had been found necessary to resort to all kinds of plans to accommodate them. The committee, however, had to inform their friends that the building was still considerably in debt. The cost of its erection had been about £3,000, and up to the present period there had been raised, by subscriptions, donations, weekly contributions, and a grant of £300 from the London Congregational Chapel Building Society, about £1,200, of which £80 was contributed by the Sabbath-school children. Further donations had been promised, and, to meet the remaining deficiency, the committee had decided on raising a mortgage upon the building of such an amount as would leave a certain sum still due, which sum they proposed to raise by loans of £100 and under, on the joint security of the whole body of the trustees. The Rev. Thomas Lloyd, of Ebley, moved the first resolution, which was an echo of the report, and of a purely congratulatory character. Mr. Hudson and the Rev. Samuel March followed. The resolution of the evening having a special reference to the remaining liabilities on the building and the best means of removing or lessening them, was moved by Rev. J. C. Harrison, and seconded by the Rev. B. S. Hollis. Much interest was excited by the fact that this meeting was also the medium of the public reception of the Rev. Edwin Paxton Hood, who has accepted the call to the pastorate, and had just come to town to enter upon his ministry. The Rev. Messrs. B. S. Hollis and H. Allon as the ministers of Islington, who were then present, very warmly and kindly welcomed Mr. Hood amongst them, and assured him of their best wishes for his happiness and success. Mr. Hood, in a similar manner, expressed how delighted he was to have such a reception; it would inspire him with great confidence to have as coadjutors those who had so long and honourably borne the office of the Christian ministry. He hoped to preach "the old Gospel" in Offord-road, that which John Bunyan gloried in and in which he gloried too. Mr. Hood was most enthusiastically received by the meeting, and concluded an address of some considerable length by proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by the Rev. H. Allon. The Chairman having acknowledged the vote, the meeting separated after singing the Doxology. On

the following Sabbath, the opening services were continued, by three sermons preached by the Revs. H. Allon, J. C. Harrison, and B. S. Hollis. The attendance was very good, the chapel being filled, and encouraging collections were the result, the amount realized by these opening services being about 100*l.* The Rev. E. P. Hood commences his labours next Sabbath.

OPEN AIR PREACHING, AND THE FAIR IN THE LONDON-FIELDS, HACKNEY.—On Sunday afternoon last large numbers of people were assembled in the London-fields witnessing the preparations for the fair to be held on Monday and two following days. The teachers of St. Thomas'-square Sabbath Schools, thinking it a very favourable opportunity for outdoor preaching, went there in a body, about four o'clock, and having obtained permission of the proprietor of one of the shows to occupy his platform, commenced the service by singing a hymn. However novel the pulpit, it was not the less attractive, for a vast congregation soon assembled, and after reading and prayer, one of their number (J. Merrington, Esq.) delivered a powerful and impressive address, which was listened to with great attention and almost without a disturbing sound. Seldom, one would suppose, if ever, has such a platform been used for such a purpose, and striking enough the contrast in the use that was doubtless made of it the following day.

PROTESTANT COLLEGE AT MALTA.—A large and highly respectable company assembled on Tuesday evening, on the invitation of the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Kinnaird, at their residence, 2, Pall-mall East, to hear statements with respect to the plans and operations of the Malta Protestant College. Among those present were—the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Carlisle, Lord and Lady Harberton, Hon. Captain Maude, the Rev. Thomas Garnier and Lady Caroline Garnier, Dr. Livingston (the African missionary explorer), Dr. Crawford, Revs. Prebendary Burgess, E. Auriol, Daniel Wilson, James Sherman, James Stratten, J. Garwood, and Messrs. A. Haldane, John Labouchere, and G. H. H. Oliphant. The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., introduced the subject of the evening by referring to the advantageous position of Malta as a centre point for missionary operations in the East. The fact, too, that Malta itself was a stronghold of the most bigoted Popery was an additional reason for kindling one speck of light amid so much darkness. While the main object of the college was to train missionaries for the opening fields of the East, it possessed appliances for giving, at the same time, a sound education to the youth of the numerous English mercantile and consular families in the surrounding countries. The Rev. Prebendary Burgess entered into particulars, proving, from the state of the Mediterranean countries, and especially of the Turkish empire, the necessity of such an institution as the Malta College. On a rough estimate there were in Turkey 15,000,000 nominal Christians and 20,000,000 Mohammedans; and though at present little could be done in a direct way among the latter, much might be done among the former. The Earl of Shaftesbury said that the concessions made by Turkey might appear nominally small, but they involved important principles, from which the Ottoman Government could never recede. Even within the last few days changes had taken place with regard to official personages at Constantinople, which were likely to have an important influence in putting an end to the persecution of converts, and to other hindrances to Protestant missions. The training afforded at the Malta College had reference not only to that which was of the utmost importance—religion, but to all those arts of life which would adapt the students to become useful members of their respective communities. He showed by the example of Asaad Kayat, a Syrian whom Lord Palmerston had made British Consul at Jaffa, what a wonderful influence for good an educated native may exercise on his countrymen. The Rev. Dr. Livingston said he heartily sympathised with this movement. The proper way to grapple with a false religion was to strike at the heart, and he could not help feeling that Mohammedanism might be more effectively dealt with in Turkey, than in outlying countries. Mohammedanism was still in process of propagation, gradually advancing southward in Africa. He had met with Arab missionaries in fifteen degrees south latitude, in the very centre of that continent. Having mentioned some interesting incidents of his missionary work, Dr. Livingston pressed the consideration of the vast myriads of Africa, to whose minds Christianity had never been presented, except in a form which they identified with idolatry. He hoped the day was at hand when missionaries trained at the Malta College would, like the Arabs to whom he had referred, penetrate southwards through Africa. Meanwhile, whatever the college did for the Mediterranean shores would, in effect, be a help to him in the interior. The Bishop of Carlisle closed the proceedings with an earnest and appropriate prayer. The meeting issued in the formation of an auxiliary, to raise funds for the south-west of London.

WARE.—The church and congregation assembling in High-street Chapel, Ware, Herts, have presented a unanimous invitation to the Rev. Dr. Leask, D.D., of London, to become their pastor, which he has accepted; and commenced his ministerial labours there on the ensuing Sabbath, April 19th.

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The concluding lecture of the series given in connection with the Young Men's Association in Aid of the Baptist Missionary Society, was delivered on Friday evening last in the library of the Mission House, by the Rev. Henry Allon, of Islington. Dr. Foster presided, and the hall was well filled. After prayer by Mr. King and a few brief remarks from the chairman,

Mr. Allon proceeded to deliver a lecture on "Bible Translations," of which, after a very interesting sketch of the history of the Bible, he said, in conclusion, that there were two questions upon which the history of translations seemed to throw light. First, how utterly indefensible is the now almost exploded theory of verbal inspiration, as distinguished from that of proper plenary inspiration. If the inspiration of the very words of Scripture be essential to its infallibility, where is the original autograph, or a verbal copy of it? Moreover, infallibility must be wanting to every translation that has been made, and to every version now used. Contending only for the inspiration of its ideas, we repose with certainty upon the received text, and upon every faithful translation of it. Second. May we not, in the light of the history of past translations of the Bible, look somewhat calmly and intelligently at the question of a possible revision of our present authorised version? He gave place to none in his reverence for and love of the present English Scriptures; but he deprecated an unintelligent and superstitious claim for its verbal infallibility. He especially deprecated the making of the question of a new translation or revision of the English Bible a question of orthodoxy *versus* heterodoxy, as some persons are doing. Whether the time has come when a revision of our English version could wisely be undertaken—who is to attempt it, and under what auspices, are questions, on the practicability and expediency of which good men may entertain different opinions; but, in the name of common sense and religious truth, do not let us foreclose the whole subject by a cry of heresy, or by fanatically saying that we are contented with our version as it is, that we love even its defects, and protest against their being touched; this is not an intelligent love for the Bible—it is a blind superstition. Mr. Allon's lecture was listened to throughout with the most marked interest, and was frequently applauded. A vote of thanks to the lecturer and chairman was moved by the Rev. R. R. Finch, and seconded by Mr. Templeton, and carried by acclamation. Dr. Foster, in responding, expressed the opinion that the greatest obstacle in the way of such a revision of the English translation as was now called for, was the intervention of secular authority, a principle to which he entirely objected in regard to matters of a sacred character. Mr. Allon having offered a short prayer, the assembly separated.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

MR. COBDEN AND THE HUDDERSFIELD ELECTION.—The following letter from Mr. Cobden to the chairman of his committee in Huddersfield appears in the *Leeds Mercury* :—

Midhurst, April 2, 1857.

My dear Sir,—I seize the first moment after my return home to fulfil the agreeable duty of tendering to you, and through you to my committee and a large body of the electors, my warmest thanks for the support with which I was honoured during the late contested election. The circumstances which preceded the dissolution of Parliament, and which imparted to it somewhat of the character of a surprise, precluded the possibility of your making an accurate estimate of the probable issue of a contest for Huddersfield, and my first step was unavoidably, to a great extent, a leap in the dark. No one can, therefore, be fairly held responsible for a miscalculation of the chances of success, nor does the result of the election afford any criterion of the strength of parties for the future. I have only to assure my friends that I have appreciated their kind and courageous efforts all the more highly since I have known that they were, from the first, embarked in an adverse struggle. To the non-electors, who afforded me all the support which the constitution allows them to give, I beg to offer my warmest acknowledgments. And with my best wishes for the prosperity and happiness of all classes and parties in your borough,

I remain, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

RICHARD COBDEN.

W. Willans, Esq., Chairman of Committee.

ROCHDALE ELECTION.—Mr. Miall's defeat has led to a union of the various sections of Liberals at Rochdale. As a first step, the two papers have amalgamated under the title of *Observer and Standard*.—*Morning Star*.

THE BURY ST. EDMUND'S ELECTION.—We hear that a petition against the return of Mr. Hardcastle for this borough is contemplated on behalf of Mr. Oates, on the ground of treating, or some other infringement of the recent Corrupt Practices Act; and that Mr. James has been retained as counsel for the petitioners. We cannot pretend to be deep enough in the election movements to be able to form a judgment as to the grounds for this proceeding, but the agents of Mr. Hardcastle assert that the most scrupulous care was taken not only themselves to avoid, but also to deprecate in others, any act which might in the slightest degree compromise the election.—*Bury Post*.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—It has been decided to proceed to a scrutiny of the votes given at the late election for Huntingdonshire, before a committee of the House of Commons.

MR. F. PEEL, the rejected candidate at Bury, will, it is thought, find a seat in the Lansdowne borough of Calne, where Sir W. Williams of Kars will make way for him.

THE IRISH ELECTIONS.—The Irish returns are now completed for every county, city, and borough in Ireland, save only for Leitrim, for which we must wait a few days longer. Of the 103 men already returned, fifty-six are Liberals, and forty-seven Conservatives, showing a majority of nine Irish members in favour of progress. The number of changes in the Irish representatives was quite equal to the general proportion in the whole empire. No less than

twenty-six men have been returned to the new who had not seats in the old Parliament. Of these, fifteen are Liberals and eleven Tories. Six Liberals were replaced by six Tories, and four Tories were replaced by four Liberals. Thus the result of the contest has been a gain of two to the Conservative party in Ireland.—*Dublin Freeman*.

GALWAY ELECTION.—A letter from Galway says: "The Roman Catholic gentry of Galway, to a man almost, supported Mr. Gregory energetically. They were determined no longer to submit to the dictates of Dr. M'Hale making and unmaking their representative. At Tuam Dr. M'Hale called upon Sir Thomas Burke, in an imperative tone, before the people, to split votes with Captain Bellew, to which Sir Thomas replied that no man should compel him to break his word. The archbishop then said that no person need be bound by a promise against the interests of his religion. To which Sir Thomas replied that he entertained a different opinion respecting the obligation of a promise. And he held manfully to his promise throughout. At Loughrea there were four priests in every booth, and when the tenants of the Marquis of Clanricarde and Sir Thomas Burke plumped for Sir Thomas, they addressed each man by name, asking him if he had not a second vote for them and his religion, but not a man answered. Every man went with his landlord, and seemed to go with all his heart. Even a portion of the priests themselves threw off the yoke, and all parties feel rejoiced at the county being delivered from the incubus of the tyranny of St. Jarlath."

THE MARQUIS OF WATERFORD AND THE DERRY ELECTION.—The tenantry of the Marquis of Waterford are said to have humbly besought their master for liberty to exercise their electoral rights according to conscience; and a letter of reply is printed, signed "J. B. Beresford," saying that his lordship wishes the tenantry to vote for Mr. Clark and Sir H. Bruce.

REPRESENTATIVE PEERS OF SCOTLAND.—The election of peers to serve in the next Parliament took place on Tuesday week, in the Picture Gallery of Holyrood Palace. The gallery was filled with a bright array of sight-seers. The Lord Provost and other civic dignitaries of Edinburgh were present officially; but the Lord Clerk Register, the Marquis of Dalhousie, was represented by two Principal Clerks of Session and the Deputy Keeper of the Records. Principal Lee opened the proceedings with prayer, and the usual forms of reading the Royal Proclamation and the roll of the Scotch Peerage were gone through. There were eighteen peers present. Fifteen peers sent signed and duly-attested lists of the names of the peers for whom they voted; five signed lists were rejected because they were not duly attested. Dr. Thomas Drummond claimed to vote as Earl of Perth; but as that title has been adjudged to another, his vote was rejected. The sixteen peers, elected unanimously, were the following: The Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Morton, the Earl of Home, the Earl of Strathmore, the Earl of Airlie, the Earl of Leven and Melville, the Earl of Selkirk, the Earl of Orkney, the Earl of Seafield, Viscount Strathallan, Lord Gray, Lord Sinclair, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Colville of Culross, Lord Blantyre, and Lord Polwarth. All of them sat in the last Parliament. The proceedings closed as they began, with a prayer from Principal Lee.

THE TRACTARIANS AND THE NEW HOUSE.—It may be interesting to our ecclesiastical readers to learn the strength of the High Church party in the new Parliament. Their losses have been many and severe. Mr. Roundell Palmer has been ejected from the representation of Plymouth; Sir Stafford Northcote has left Dudley, and has not succeeded in Devonshire. The Hon. Arthur Gordon is out of Parliament also; so is Dr. R. J. Phillimore and Mr. A. D. R. W. Baile Cochran. Some moderate High Churchmen of the old school, who would not like to be styled Tractarian, are also out—Sir T. D. Ackland, Mr. T. S. Cocks, Mr. W. J. Evelyn, Lord Alfred Hervey, Mr. G. E. H. Vernon. On the other hand, some new Tractarian candidates have succeeded in getting into the House—Mr. A. J. B. Beresford Hope, for Maidstone; Sir Arthur Hallam Elton, Bart., for Bath; the Hon. Frederick Lygon (Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford), for Tewkesbury; Mr. George Selater (moderate High Churchman), for North Hampshire; Mr. Taverner John Miller (moderate High Churchman), for Colchester; Mr. Thomas Collins, for Knaresborough; the Earl of Lincoln (moderate High Churchman), for Newark; Mr. E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen (moderate High Churchman), for Sandwich; Lord James Stuart (moderate High Churchman), for Ayrshire. Besides these, the Tractarian and High Church members who have been re-elected are as follows:—Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Oxford University; Sir W. Heathcote, Oxford University; Mr. S. H. Walpole, Cambridge University; Mr. J. W. Henley (Archdeacon Denison's father-in-law), Oxfordshire; the Hon. J. E. T. Yorke, Cambridgeshire; Lord John Manners, North Leicestershire; Mr. Sidney Herbert, South Wiltshire; Mr. Bramston, South Essex; Mr. T. H. S. Sotherton Estcourt, North Wiltshire; Lord Robert Cecil, Stamford; Colonel F. S. Greville, for Longford county. One Tractarian candidate, a member of Mr. Liddell's committee, was unsuccessful, Sir S. Glynne, for Flintshire. It has been the fashion to number Mr. Cardwell among the Tractarians; this is entirely a mistake; the right hon. gentleman is opposed to them. On the other hand, the Evangelicals have lost Lord H. Cholmondeley (Hampshire), and Mr. Abel Smith, jun. (Hertfordshire), and gained Mr. R. Hanbury, jun. (Middlesex), Mr. Charles Buxton (Newport, I. W.), Sir E. Buxton (East Norfolk), Sir B. Bridges (Kent), and Sir H. Verney (Buckingham). The Hon. Colonel Vereker, the anti-Tractarian friend and supporter of Mr.

Westerton, was not successful at Yarmouth.—*Morning Advertiser*.

STATISTICS OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—The following are some statistics of a miscellaneous character :—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Members re-elected for the same seat | 448 |
| " " " " other constituencies | 13 |
| Members who sat in the late Parliament, but not at the time of its dissolution | 10 |
| Members who lost their seats at the following general elections, viz.: | |
| " " " " of 1852 | 22 |
| " " " " of 1847 | 2 |
| " " " " of 1841 | 1 |
| " " " " of 1837 | 1 |
| " " " " of 1831 | 1 |

New members ... 151

The *Morning Star* thus classifies the members in the new Parliament, assuming in doing so that the two members for Leitrim will both be Liberals :—

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Palmerstonians | 265 |
| Derbyites | 227 |
| Reformers | 110 |
| Liberal Conservatives | 53 |

In 1832 it was enacted that Parliament should consist of 658 members; but the inveterate corruption of Sudbury and St. Alban's caused their disfranchisement and reduced the number to 654, but owing to the double return made for Huntingdonshire, there are 655 members actually named.

THE OLD PARLIAMENT.

The following is a list of members of the late House of Commons who have either voluntarily retired from Parliament, or who have been defeated in their attempts at re-election :—

| | LIB. CON. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sir T. D. Acland (Devon, North) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Acton (Wigan) | 1 |
| Colonel Adair (Cambridge) | 1 |
| Earl Annesley (Grimsby) | 1 |
| Mr. Bagge (West Norfolk) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Baird (Falkirk) | 1 |
| Mr. E. H. Baldock (Shrewsbury) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Ball (Carlow County) | 1 |
| Mr. T. Barnes (Bolton) | 1 |
| Viscount Barrington (Berks) | 1 |
| Captain Bateson (Derry County) | 1 |
| Mr. W. Beckett (Ripon) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Bell (Guildford) | 1 |
| Captain Bellew (Galway County) | 1 |
| Lord H. Bentinck (North Notts) | 1 |
| Admiral Berkeley (Gloucester) | 1 |
| Sir G. Berkeley (Devonport) | 1 |
| Sir S. Bignold (Norwich) | 1 |
| Mr. M. Blake (Galway Borough) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Bond (Armagh City) | 1 |
| Hon. Captain Boyle (Frome) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Bright (Manchester) | 1 |
| Mr. Brockman (Hythe) | 1 |
| Mr. H. Brown (Tewkesbury) | 1 |
| Colonel G. S. Buck (Barnstable) | 1 |
| Mr. L. W. Buck (North Devon) | 1 |
| Mr. H. N. Burroughes (East Norfolk) | 1 |
| Mr. R. Burrows (Cavan) | 1 |
| Mr. G. M. Butt (Weymouth) | 1 |
| Mr. B. B. Cabbell (Boston) | 1 |
| Sir A. Campbell (Angulshire) | 1 |
| Mr. Cardwell (Oxford City) | 1 |
| Colonel Caulfield (Armagh County) | 1 |
| Alderman Challis (Finsbury) | 1 |
| Mr. M. Chambers (Greenwich) | 1 |
| Mr. T. Chambers (Hertford) | 1 |
| Marquis of Chandos (Buckingham) | 1 |
| Mr. W. J. Chaplin (Salisbury) | 1 |
| Lord Chelsea (Dover) | 1 |
| Lord W. Cholmondeley (South Hants) | 1 |
| Sir W. Clay (Tower Hamlets) | 1 |
| Lord C. Clinton (Sandwich) | 1 |
| Mr. Cobden (West Yorkshire) | 1 |
| Mr. B. Cochrane (Lanarkshire) | 1 |
| Mr. T. S. Cocks (Reigate) | 1 |
| Mr. Coffin (Cardiff) | 1 |
| Mr. H. B. Coles (Andover) | 1 |
| Mr. H. C. Compton (South Hants) | 1 |
| Major Cotton (Carrickfergus) | 1 |
| Mr. R. Currie (Northampton) | 1 |
| Mr. J. L. Davies (Cardigan) | 1 |
| Mr. Deedes (East Kent) | 1 |
| Mr. Dent (Knaresborough) | 1 |
| Mr. J. S. W. Drax (Wareham) | 1 |
| Sir J. Duckworth (Exeter) | 1 |
| Mr. G. Duncan (Dundee) | 1 |
| Captain Duncombe (East Retford) | 1 |
| Colonel Dunne (Portarlington) | 1 |
| Mr. Evelyn (West Surrey) | 1 |
| Viscount Eversley (North Hants) | 1 |
| Mr. Farrar (South Durham) | 1 |
| Major Feilden (Blackburn) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Ferguson (Carlisle) | 1 |
| Sir J. Fergusson (Ayrshire) | 1 |
| Sir J. Fitzgerald (Clare) | 1 |
| Mr. Floyer (Dorsetshire) | 1 |
| Mr. B. S. Follett (Bridgewater) | 1 |
| Mr. J. Forster (Berwick) | 1 |
| Mr. R. M. Fox (Longford) | 1 |
| Mr. W. J. Fox (Oldham) | 1 |
| Mr. J. W. Freshfield (Falmouth) | 1 |
| Mr. Fuller (East Sussex) | 1 |
| Mr. George (Wexford County) | 1 |
| Mr. T. M. Gibson (Manchester) | 1 |
| Captain Gladstone (Devizes) | 1 |
| Sir G. Goodman (Leeds) | 1 |
| Hon. A. Gordon (Beverley) | 1 |
| Mr. W. O. Gore (North Salop) | 1 |
| Hon. E. L. Gower (Stoke) | 1 |
| Lord M. Graham (Grantham) | 1 |
| Mr. T. Green (Lancaster) | 1 |

| | LIB. | CON. |
|--|------|------|
| Lord Guernsey (South Warwickshire) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. R. S. Guinness (Barnstaple) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. H. Gwyn (Falmouth) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. R. B. Hale (West Gloucestershire) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir H. Halford (South Leicestershire) ... | — | 1 |
| Hon. C. S. Hanbury (Herefordshire) ... | — | 1 |
| Hon. Captain Handcock (Athlone) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. G. V. Harcourt (Newark) ... | — | 1 |
| Colonel V. Harcourt (Isle of Wight) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Alexander Hastie (Glasgow) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. G. H. Heneage (Devizes) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir T. Herbert (Dartmouth) ... | — | 1 |
| Lord A. Hervey (Brighton) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Heywood (North Lancashire) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. L. Heyworth (Derby) ... | 1 | — |
| Colonel Higgins (Mayo) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir J. W. Hogg (Honiton) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Hutchins (Lymington) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Irton (West Cumberland) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. J. Johnstone (Clackmannan) ... | — | 1 |
| Captain Jones (Derry County) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. R. Keating (Waterford City) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Kennard (Newport) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. T. Kennedy (Louth) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Ker (Down) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir E. Lacon (Yarmouth) ... | — | 1 |
| Captain Laffan (St. Ives) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Laing (Wick) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Langworthy (Salford) ... | 1 | — |
| Hon. E. Lascelles (Ripon) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Layard (Aylesbury) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. W. Lee (Maidstone) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. C. S. Lefevre (North Hants) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir C. Lemon (West Cornwall) ... | 1 | — |
| Colonel Lindsay (Wigan) ... | — | 1 |
| Hon. E. Littleton (Staffordshire, South) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. C. M. Lushington (Canterbury) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. J. MacGregor (Sandwich) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir T. Maddock (Rochester) ... | — | 1 |
| Lord G. Manners (Cambridgeshire) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Masterman (London) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Maunsell (Northamptonshire, North) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Meagher (Waterford City) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Miall (Rochdale) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Michell (Bodmin) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Milligan (Bradford) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir W. Milner (York) ... | 1 | — |
| Lord Monck (Portsmouth) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Mowatt (Cambridge) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir J. M'Taggart (Wigton) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Mundy (Derbyshire, South) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Murrrough (Bridport) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. R. H. Nisbet (North Lincolnshire) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir S. Northcote (Dudley) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. C. O'Brien (Clare) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Oakes (Bury St. Edmunds) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Oliveira (Pontefract) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Otway (Stafford) ... | 1 | — |
| Lord G. Paget (Beaumaris) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. R. Palmer (Plymouth) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. R. T. Parker (Preston) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Peacocke (Maldon) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. F. Peel (Bury) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. A. Pellatt (Southwark) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. J. G. Phillimore (Leominster) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. R. J. Phillimore (Tavistock) ... | — | 1 |
| Hon. A. G. Ponsonby (Cirencester) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. M. Portal (North Hants) ... | — | 1 |
| Lord W. Powlett (Ludlow) ... | — | 1 |
| Major Reed (Abingdon) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. S. Ricardo (Windsor) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. E. R. Rice (Dover) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. J. Richardson, jun. (Lisburn) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Rumbold (Yarmouth) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Sanders (Wakefield) ... | — | 1 |
| Captain Seobell (Bath) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. F. Scully (Tipperary) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. V. Scully (Cork County) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. W. D. Seymour (Hull) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Serjeant Shee (Kilkenny County) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir W. B. Smijth (South Essex) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. A. Smith (Herts) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. W. M. Smith (West Kent) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Starkie (Clitheroe) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir H. Stracey (East Norfolk) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir G. Strickland (Preston) ... | 1 | — |
| Captain Stuart (Bedford) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. J. M. Sutton (Newark) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Sawle (Bodmin) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. R. Swift (Sligo County) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. G. Thompson (Aberdeen) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir G. Tyler (Glamorganshire) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir J. Tyrell (North Essex) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. P. Urquhart (Westmeath) ... | 1 | — |
| Earl of Uxbridge (South Staffordshire) ... | 1 | — |
| Captain L. Vernon (Chatham) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. J. E. Vivian (Truro) ... | — | 1 |
| Colonel Vyse (Northamptonshire, South) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir R. Vvyvan (Helstone) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. D. Waddington (Harwich) ... | — | 1 |
| Sir J. Walmsley (Leicester) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. Warner (Norwich) ... | 1 | — |
| Sir G. E. Welby (Grantham) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Wells (Beverley) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. F. R. West (Denbigh) ... | — | 1 |
| Mr. Wilkinson (Lambeth) ... | 1 | — |
| Mr. J. A. Wynne (Sligo Borough) ... | — | 1 |

When Mr. Albert Smith was preparing his Mont Blanc he asked Mr. Mayhew to recommend him a hurdy-gurdy player, and he mentioned one whose name was "Old Sairey." Being blind, she did not know what her pupil wanted to learn for; but she imagined that it was for getting a living in the streets. Accordingly she told him "to keep the leather well down over the cymbal, as the halpence were very liable to fall into the works."

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM FOR LIVERPOOL.

On Wednesday the foundation stone of the new building for the new Free Public Library and Museum, which is to be erected at the cost of Mr. W. Brown, M.P., was laid. The sum which this beautiful building will cost cannot be estimated at less than 35,000*l.* or 40,000*l.*, but as the plans have not been made public, we are unable to form any exact estimate. The site is near St. George's Hall. The weather was most favourable for the various ceremonies. Mr. Brown, who laid the foundation stone, was accompanied to the site by the mayor and town council, Lord Stanley, Sir J. Pakington, the Bishop of Chester, Mr. Milnes, the members of the borough and county, and an immense crowd of ladies and gentlemen. Before the especial work of the day commenced, addresses were presented to Mr. Brown, at the Town Hall, by the principal literary and scientific societies of the town. An address was also received from the Nonconformist ministers resident in the town. When all the addresses had been presented, a procession was formed to the site of the new building in Shaw's Brow.

Mr. HOLME (the Deputy Mayor) first addressed the assemblage. After highly eulogising Mr. Brown's magnificent liberality, which had called them together on that occasion, he said that Mr. Brown's long life had witnessed many great national and local changes. When he commenced business in Liverpool, in 1810, the tonnage of the port was 734,000, and the dock space thirty-six acres. Now the tonnage of the port was 4,320,000, and the dock space 250 acres. In 1810, the dock rates paid were 65,782*l.*; last year, they were 326,850*l.* Mr. Brown had also witnessed a vast extension of our colonial empire; and with especial reference to the United States, where Mr. Brown's name was so well known, the population had quadrupled since he commenced his career; and the two great Anglo-Saxon nations should never forget that Mr. Brown's influence had, in a great measure, contributed on more than one occasion, to preserve peace between them. Mr. Holme further eulogised Mr. Brown's career more especially in connection with Liverpool, where his name, he said, would be remembered and revered like those great Italian princes who made republics and states of their native towns. (Cheers.)

A beautiful silver trowel and mallet were presented to Mr. Brown to lay the stone with. During his speech, Mr. Brown expressed pleasure at being called upon to lay the first stone of a building which was intended to advance the intelligence of the public, and he spoke at great length upon the necessity of forming public libraries and museums for the working classes. Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, Mr. William Ewart, and Sir Harry Smith, spoke a few words to gratify the desire of the multitude. During the ceremony, Mr. Brown announced the birth of a Princess at Buckingham Palace, and the guns of the Militia Artillery at the North Fort fired a royal salute.

After the proceedings terminated, the procession reformed, and proceeded to St. George's Hall, where a magnificent banquet took place, at which more than a thousand guests were present. At this banquet several excellent speeches were delivered by Mr. Brown and other distinguished guests. A letter from Lord Derby was read, regretting that he could not be present, both because he takes a personal interest in the work in hand and because he should have had much pleasure in paying a tribute of well-merited respect to Mr. Brown for his munificence and public spirit. After the cloth had been removed the oratory began. Praise of Mr. Brown occupied a large portion of the speeches. The Bishop of Chester warmly advocated the extension of education. Sir Harry Smith remarked that upon a recent inspection of the 25th Regiment there were 340 of that regiment voluntarily attending the school, and progressing in the higher branches of architecture and in practical knowledge. Mr. Brown cited the example of America in matters educational, and in the course of his speech said:—

We must exert ourselves in this honourable competition to preserve our caste among the nations of the earth, by having an equally well educated people. Science has already done much for us. It has made that giant power, steam, subservient to the use of man—I may say to bridge the ocean, and set at defiance both the winds and the waves, and has furnished this little island with a manufacturing power which could not be accomplished by the unaided manual labour of two Chinese empires, or 600,000,000 people. But what are we to say of a more recent application of a power which can carry a message for us at the rate of 188,000 miles in a minute? It is not impossible that means may be found to make it a still more powerful agent than steam. I hope and expect before the year is out, we shall be able to send a message from the Old World to the New as quick as thought. It is clear we live in an age of progress. *The Times* announced the other day that it is probable we shall not be dependent on raising silkworms for the production of that valuable raw material, as it has been discovered that it is in the leaves of the mulberry tree, and can, by a chymical process be obtained from them to any extent. If this discovery can be carried out with economy, it may make a complete revolution in the use of cotton by the substitution of silk; and we may see our females clothed in robes that added to the dignity of a Roman Emperor. Discoveries of this kind fill us with wonder and amazement. They are due to advancing science, and I think clearly point out that there is yet an immense field of enterprise open to the world.

Lord Stanley, referring to the patriotic feeling invariably shown by the great maritime and mercantile interests of England, observed:—

With what we see and know before us, it would be not merely an injustice—it would be not merely a

calumny—it would be an absurdity and a contradiction to a palpable fact, were any one to assert that the greatest maritime and mercantile interests of England are less publicly supported, or less patriotic, or less interested in national affairs, than any other class in this or any other country. (Cheers.) They have borne ungrudgingly their share, and something more than their share, of the public burdens. (Cheers.) They have never hesitated when, on such questions as of peace or war, which sometimes arise—they have never hesitated, when occasion called for it, to sacrifice their private interests to the general advantage of the country; they have not only not shrunk from taking upon themselves the burdens and responsibilities of property, but they have gone out of their way to bear burdens which no other person could have laid upon them, and to undertake responsibilities which they may fairly and honestly decline to assume. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) There are, gentlemen, I hope and believe, many proprietors of wealth—perhaps I should say most of the proprietors of wealth—who regard that wealth as a trust, and who are willing, more or less, to use it for the public service; but it is a peculiar advantage of those whose property is of their own creating, that they are enabled—being comparatively free from the claims which custom and society impose in the case of hereditary fortune—being more, in fact, the masters of what they possess—they are enabled, if such be their pleasure, to contribute far more largely and more directly to the requirements of society and of the public. (Cheers.) That, gentlemen, is a great advantage, and nobly that advantage has been used. (Cheers.) I will not weary you by repeating what in one form of words or another, has been said a hundred times to-day; I will only repeat in public what I said just now to Mr. Brown in private, that I envy him his feelings on this occasion. And I will only add that though, as we all know, he is well acquainted with the best mode of investing capital to advantage, I believe he will find that this last investment is the best he ever made. (Cheers.) The town of Liverpool may thank him for contributing what will be hereafter and in future always one of the principal ornaments of its streets; the friends of education may thank him for having given an impulse to the cause which puts to shame the comparative apathy both of individuals and of public bodies elsewhere—(cheers)—but public men may thank him, and England may thank him, and it is to this that I attach the greatest importance, for giving to those who are not possessors of wealth—to the poor and to the labouring classes of this country, a signal proof that wealth is viewed by those who possess it, not as a means of pleasure—not as an enjoyment of luxury, but as one means among many of obtaining the respect and the gratitude of our fellow citizens—("hear, hear," and cheers)—as one means, among many, of alleviating those hard thoughts and that envy which, in a country of occasional distress and unequal fortunes, will inevitably arise—as one means, among many, of doing good and permanent service to England, and of promoting the progressive improvement of mankind. (Cheers.)

Sir John Pakington alluded to the scene which he had that day witnessed as one of the most gratifying which it had ever been his lot to witness. He concluded—

I believe, gentlemen, that were any of your wealthy citizens disposed to act as Mr. Brown has acted, I believe that human sagacity could not have devised a wiser or more benevolent exercise of his liberality than by founding, as he has done, a Free Library for this city. (Cheers.) We hear much, gentlemen, on the subject of education; much of the voluntary principle. Never has England yet had such a noble instance of the voluntary principle—(cheers)—as Mr. Brown has this day afforded us.

Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., having, in a very eloquent speech, proposed the health of Mr. Hawthorne, the United States Consul at Liverpool, that gentleman made the following reply:—

Mr. Mayor, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—I appear in this hall before you, not in any individual capacity of my own, but as the representative of my country, and especially of the literature of America, and I heartily wish the literary men of America had had a better representative—one who had done more for the cause of literature than I have done, and one who could have acknowledged better than I possibly can the honour that has been conferred upon them. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman who has alluded to me has made allusions also to some productions of my own. That praise, gentlemen, is the more valuable, coming as it does from one who is so eminently qualified to express an opinion when a thing is well done. His praise is very gratifying, for there is nothing in literary reputation so dear to an American as a knowledge that he is considered worthy of commendation in the land of his ancestors. (Loud cheers.) But, gentlemen, I must not forget that I am not speaking here in my own behalf, but on behalf of the literature of my country, and on behalf of the literary men of America—the poets, the historians, the novelists of America. I thank you; for I have no right to decline any applause which you may be pleased to award to them, how much so ever I might feel inclined to decline that honour to myself individually. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) The circumstances of our country have directed much of our attention to the rough side of life, instead of to those softening influences which are favourable to literary productions; but it is something to me to think that we have accomplished an act of gratitude—of heartfelt gratitude—to England. It is something to my countrymen to know that they have yet maintained the old Anglo-Saxon spirit, and that it has some hold upon them now in their literary pursuits. It gives me happiness to believe this, because the more we return to you for the great measure of enjoyment that we have received from you, the more we shall aid you in promoting peace and goodwill, in which I hope the two nations will ever continue, because every American who has written books which England is content to receive into her literature, has contributed something to that excellent result. Having responded to the toast which has been proposed, I might sit down, but I cannot do so, and you will pardon me; for it has been justly observed, had the ties been drawn but a little closer, America would have called Mr. Brown her son. (Cheers.) At all events, he has the connection by blood, by friendship, by affection, in all the interests of life, which we shall not certainly forget, nor neither will he. (Loud cheers.) It is good for our country that there should be such men—men connected with one country, and with another,

and yet not the less true to their own beloved land. (Cheers.)

In the evening a *soirée* was given at the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson-street, by the working classes, at which an address was presented to Mr. Brown, concluding as follows:—"Permit us, therefore, to tender you this sincere, though imperfect, expression of our esteem and gratitude, and to add our prayer that your life may be spared to see the good work completed, and to enjoy an earnest of those fruits of extended usefulness which, under the blessing of God, we hope and believe it will provide." The speakers were Mr. Nathaniel Carue (chairman), Mr. W. Rathbone, Mr. Picton, Mr. Brown, the Rev. Mr. Twist, the Rev. H. S. Brown (Baptist), the Rev. T. Binney (of London), the Rev. W. E. Channing (Unitarian), the Rev. Father Nugent (Roman Catholic), Mr. F. R. Jefferey, &c.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

There have been many arrests at Paris in consequence, it is said, of the discovery of a new conspiracy—in fact, a gunpowder plot! We quote *The Times* correspondence:—

A person, whose name it is not necessary to mention, a silk weaver by trade, and a fanatic in politics, conceived the notion of blowing up the Emperor while he was sitting in his box at the Théâtre Français. The modern Catesby proceeded to London to communicate his plan to persons from whom he expected to receive encouragement and assistance. After a conference with them he returned to France, and soon after again repaired to London to arrange the final operations. In the meantime one of his London friends, believing he had reason to suspect that the French Catesby was in reality a secret agent of the authorities sent to entrap him, gave information to the English police. When "Catesby" heard of the fact, he became furious, and anticipating the denunciation, returned hastily to Paris, revealed the plot to the French authorities, and denounced his accomplices. He, with about thirty persons, was at once taken into custody. The affair is now in course of investigation, and will in due time be brought before the Correctional Police-court, when no doubt the concoctor of the plot will be produced as the principal witness.

It is thought by some that the whole thing was a trap laid by the Government to commit refugees in London to actionable proceedings.

The elections of members of the Corps Legislatif will soon take place. There is little chance that they will be fairly conducted. A few weeks ago a canvassing committee was organised to promote the election of M. Raspail; without loss of time the Government had the members of this committee arrested on the charge of having instituted a secret society. A Lyons journal has stated, and the *Débats* has reprinted the paragraph, that M. Thiers has declined "for many reasons" to become a candidate for the representation of the Seine Inférieure; and the Government organ, the *Patrie*, denounces such an intimation as little short of sedition. A circular relating to the elections has just been sent to all the prefects by the Minister of the Interior, which explains "how that functionary understands the exercise of universal suffrage." What the purport of this "understanding" may be has not yet been allowed to transpire to the uninitiated. The *Patrie*, indeed, takes upon itself to promise that any candidate not flying in the face of "social order, the law, and society," will be permitted; but the universal belief throughout France is, that such members of the present Corps Legislatif as have sufficient proofs of subserviency will be brought forward for re-election; that M. Montalembert and a few other troublesome subjects will be laid on the shelf; and that the whole artillery of prohibitions of electoral meetings, arrests of canvassers, warnings against newspapers which advocate the claims of opposition candidates, &c., will be brought to bear against those who may attempt to make the elections realities.

The price of meat has again risen in Paris, and the complaints from, not only the poorer classes, but from the entire middle class, grow louder and louder.

General Todleben and several Russians of distinction have left Paris for Toulon, to meet the Grand Duke Constantine, who is positively expected there on the 20th or 21st. The Grand Duke will, during his sojourn at Toulon, inaugurate the construction of five steamers placed on the stocks there on Russian account. There are more Russian orders of this kind expected by the shipbuilders of Toulon. The *Nord* contradicts the assertion that the Grand Duke is to proceed to England after his visit to Paris.

General Luders, who has been for some time in Paris, has had a private audience of the Emperor. The general is travelling for his health, and intends to visit Vichy.

ITALY.

The Piedmontese Government, it is said, are about to propose a reform in the organisation of the National Guard, that will place it on a footing similar to that occupied by the Prussian Landwehr and Landsturm; and it is added that this step will not fail to please the Radical party, as well as conduce to the defence of the State.

Advices from Naples revive the report that the King, weary of the existing condition of things, has made overtures of reconciliation, and that he has now under consideration certain propositions which, if agreed to, will enable the Western Powers to resume communications with him. Other accounts announce the arrival in that city of Prince Carini, from Brussels, but hold out no hope of an approaching renewal of friendly relations, as stated in some journals, between King Ferdinand and the Western Powers. In the meantime, the reports of the con-

dition of the country are as unhappy as ever. A system of espionage has demoralized the army. The officers are set to watch their men, and the men their officers. "Instead of being a school of soldiers, it resembles rather a school of little boys, 'telling tales' of one another to the master; who confesses them, whips, imprisons, or exiles them, as the 'young gentlemen' seem to require." The police, underpaid, increases its stipends by threatening persons that, unless a certain sum be paid, they shall be denounced and ruined.

The official journal of Palermo devotes three columns to a refutation of the assertions of *The Morning Post*, with regard to the interior of the Neapolitan prisons. It declares that the Government of the Two Sicilies considers the application of tortures an infamous thing, which could only exist in a barbarous age.

It is stated that some disturbances broke out at Bologna and Viterbo, the pretext being the payment of taxes, but were put down. Energetic measures, the account states, were taken to prevent a recurrence of such scenes.

Letters from Florence say that the new Papal Nuncio had been making every effort lately to induce the Grand Duke to sign a Concordat like the Austrian, but as yet without effect. The Jesuits are making increased efforts in Tuscany to acquire an official position, which they have not yet accomplished; public opinion without distinction of political party being strongly opposed to that religious order. In Milan, to the surprise of the entire population, not one of the measures of reform announced in the journals has yet been carried into execution. The only change that has taken place is that a few individuals have been decorated, and a few prisoners have been released.

SPAIN.

The Cortes recently elected consists of a large majority of members devoted to the so-called "Conservative" or Court party. Marshal O'Donnell, it is said, will lead such opposition as will be permitted; and in this he will be supported by some of the Generals who took part with him in the insurrection of Vicalvaro. It is stated that the Progressista party is so broken up and disheartened, that several members of it abstained from voting during the recent elections, while others voted for the Government candidates. The prospects of constitutional rule in Spain are now very bad.

The Madrid journal *Iberia* has been prosecuted for an article on the elections, and acquitted. This acquittal is ascribed to two causes,—the eloquent pleadings of Senor Olozaga and his warm defence of representative institutions; and also to the hostility of the journal to O'Donnell regarded as the enemy of the Ministry. The following is an extract from the speech of the Erskine of the Spanish bar:—

Gentlemen, representative government is a magnificent compromise between ancient institutions and modern requirements. It is useful to the people in their social and political progress, in elevating their dignity, in improving their education, in securing their welfare, and in teaching them the difficult science of self-government. To the Throne it is indispensable as a safeguard against revolutionary shocks, and even against those other dangers which are less violent and less apparent but more to be dreaded, and to which it is exposed by certain tendencies it may not be able to resist openly, but which merit careful attention, as the complications they involve would affect all Europe if prudence did not conciliate the conflicting interests and opinions which divide it. Representative government, moreover, enables the Throne to disengage itself of its treacherous friends; of men whose only ambition is wealth; of men who impoverish it; of men who corrupt because they adulterate it, and of those who are at the same time ambitious and cowardly; of those creatures who first bring danger around it, and then basely abandon it in the hour of peril! Such is the system of government that some persons are now pleased to calumniate, but which we defend with all the force the law gives us; and which, confident in the purity and excellence of our doctrines, we shall continue to defend with perseverance and courage; and to obtain the triumph of such a cause we will employ all the legal means that are still left us, whatever be the attempts to cheat us of them.

PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese Government is preparing a small expedition to China, for the purpose of maintaining its rights in that country. The garrison of Macao is to be reinforced and the Governor will receive orders to re-establish the authority of Portugal in the settlement, which for the last fifty years has been allowed to pass into abeyance.

The Lisbon correspondent of the *Daily News* writing on the 8th inst. respecting the proposed line of railway, says:—

Sir Morton Peto, accompanied by Mr. Wilson, C.E., and Mr. Lloyd, returns to England in this packet. After a protracted discussion of preliminaries, it is understood that Sir Morton's proposals for the construction of the lines of railway from the capital to Oporto and to the Spanish frontier have been definitively accepted by the Portuguese Government. The King, who has all along shown the greatest interest in the progress of the negotiations, has expressed his entire satisfaction with the results. It requires no prophet to foresee the magnificent results which a great trunk railway from Paris, with its outlet and seaport at Lisbon will work. The large and increasing trade of Brazil will find its entrepot here; this splendid harbour, where a line-of-battle ship may lie at a wharf at all times of the tide, will again become one of the greatest marts of the western world. The Portuguese Government have throughout treated Sir M. Peto with marked respect and courtesy. On his arrival he was brought ashore in the Custom-house barge, and this morning there are three barges—that of the Public Works, that of the tobacco contract, and another from the *Escomouth*—to attend him on board; and no doubt, if the ministers had

not been up all night, several would have gone on board to take leave. Before taking leave of Sir Morton Peto, Senor Avila said that all the ministers were entirely satisfied with the terms of the contract; and, indeed, the advantages are so equally balanced, that all must be gratified. Instead of the guarantee of a fixed rate of interest on the capital employed as first stipulated by Sir Morton Peto, the system of a subvention has been decided upon. The Government will pay 5,500*l.* per kilometre, one-half of the estimated value, conceding the line for ninety-nine years, but always reserving the right of buying it at the end of thirty years.

AUSTRIA.

On the 9th, the ceremony of "the washing of feet" took place at the Austrian Court. At nine o'clock in the morning, twenty-four old people—twelve men and as many women—who were dressed in the ancient German costume, were conducted to the "Hall of Ceremony" of the Palace. On their arrival, the men were placed on one side of a long table, and the women on the other. As soon as the seniors had taken their seats, their Majesties entered, and placed before them a great number of dishes, which were brought in trays by the Imperial servers. The Emperor handled the "crockery" in a masterly way, but the Empress required the assistance of her ladies. After the dishes had been set upon the table, they were removed, and placed in twenty-four large baskets, which were sent to the rooms occupied by the paupers in the almshouse. At ten o'clock the washing of feet began, in the chapel of the Palace. The Emperor performed the ceremony on the above-mentioned twelve old men, and the Empress on the women. His Majesty received from the hands of his Lord Steward a gilt ewer, and poured from it a few drops of water on one of the feet of each of the men. After a towel had been pressed once or twice on each of the wetted feet, and a little bag containing thirty-two silver groats had been hung round the necks of the old people, the ceremony was at an end. Her Majesty, who was attended by her Lord Steward, acted in exactly the same way as her Imperial consort.—*Vienna Correspondent of the Times.*

NEUCHÂTEL.

The *Nord* publishes a letter from its Paris correspondent in which it is stated that, notwithstanding the assertions to the contrary made by several journals, the affair of Neuchâtel is in a fair way of being arranged. Count Walewski has, it states, proposed a middle course, which the above journal declares is likely to be accepted by all parties.

TURKEY.

The investigation relative to the affair of the Poles who were landed in Circassia has led to the conclusion that two Pachas, Ismail and Ferhad, were implicated in the affair. A maritime police has been established in the Bosphorus against the pirates. A body of 130 Poles have embarked for Thessaly to settle on Redschid Pacha's property in that country.

The landed proprietors, advocates, and young boyards of distinction, of Bucharest, have been presenting to Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, our Commissioner in the Principalities, an address of esteem and confidence. They observed:—

The Roumans welcome with delight in you the worthy representative of free England—the Envoy of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. They indulge in the firm hope that your presence among them will powerfully contribute to deliver them from all restraint, and thereby secure to them an unshackled manifestation of the wishes of the country, with entire independence in the elections. We have the greater right to expect an attentive care on the part of the Commissioners in the application of the electoral law, as we have not taken any part in drawing it up. We have too long lived without liberty for abuses not to be rife, particularly at a distance from the capital. We solicit the attention of your Excellency to this point. We take great pleasure in reminding you that at the Congress of Paris the representative of her Britannic Majesty was the first to insist strongly on the necessity of taking into account the free wishes of the country.

Sir Henry replied, that he could assure them the Porte desires with all sincerity that its instructions shall be faithfully carried out. He praised the Kaimakan Ghika, and urged the deputation to show those civic virtues—that prudence, moderation, and tact—which every nation desirous of enjoying representative government should possess.

A letter from Jassy of the 30th March gives the manifesto, published by the electoral committee of the capital of Moldavia. It advocates:—1. The union of the provinces in a single State, reserving the rights of the sublime Porte according to the spirit and the letter of the ancient capitulations. 2. The neutrality of the territory of the Principalities. 3. Respect of the rights of the Principalities according to the spirit and letter of the same treaties. 4. Heredity of the chief of the State. The hospodariate has served its time—a European system ought to succeed it. 5. The legislative power confided to a single General Assembly, which will represent the interests of the entire nation. 6. Submission of foreigners inhabiting the Principalities to all the laws of the country. 7. The acknowledgment of the right of the Principalities to establish commercial relations according to their interests. 8. All these under the collective guarantee of the powers who signed the Treaty of Paris.

AMERICA.

Despatches from Washington state that the United States Government will immediately send a naval force to China to give protection to American interests. Any hostile operations that may be necessary will be undertaken by the United States as a separate power, and not as the ally of England and France. A special commissioner is to be sent immediately to

China, and rumour points to Hon. Caleb Cushing as likely to receive the appointment.

The New York Chamber of Commerce had appointed a committee to proceed to Washington to request President Buchanan to strengthen the American fleet in the Chinese seas, for the protection of American interests and property during the war now raging; and to appoint a Minister of high character. A committee was also appointed to inquire into the best means of putting a stop to the abuse of the present system of shipping seamen, which is filling American vessels with mutinous crews and rendering property in ships insecure.

The *New York Herald* says there is reason to believe that the dispute between Mexico and Spain will be arranged without recourse to war. This result is attributed to the friendly interposition of the Governments of England and France. "The enterprising parties in New Orleans and New York who have been so hopefully awaiting the commencement of hostilities will now turn their faces to other fields, and perhaps Central America may receive a share of their attention."

The Senate of New York State has passed resolutions, by twenty-two to six, condemning the decision of the Supreme Court of the Union in the case of Dred Scott.

The latest arrivals from America gives some details of further movements on the part of Walker in Nicaragua. It is said that he caught a body of the enemy—according to Napoleon's favourite war phrase—in *flagrante delicto*. They were quite unprepared, and Walker's force being well supplied with arms and ammunition, fell upon them, and destroyed the whole corps, slaughtering 320 and wounding 300 more. Other and subsequent accounts allege that Walker is still in a precarious position, and that his successes are imaginary.

Advices from Havannah to the 3rd inst. state that General Concha had issued a decree revoking the certificates of protection ordered to be issued to slaves, as being insufficient in curtailing the traffic. Two New York vessels had been sold as slavers.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's ship *New Granada*, Captain Strachan, was boarded at Huanchaco on the 14th March, by the crews of two screw war-steamer belonging to the Revolutionary party in Peru. The officer in charge demanded a portion of the cargo, said to be the property of General Castilla, the President of the Republic. Captain Strachan refused to surrender it with his consent; and he had no means to resist force. The pirates took possession of the ship, and, breaking open the treasure-chest, carried off 32,000 dollars. On arriving at Paíta, Captain Strachan lodged a protest with the British Consul. It is supposed that this will lead to the capture of the Revolutionary flotilla by the British men-of-war on the station.

CHINA.

The *Pays* contains a letter from London, which professes to give some information about the mission of Lord Elgin to China:—"The following are, in substance, the new demands made by the Government of Great Britain:—1st. The former treaties shall be renewed, and extended to eight of the Chinese ports, instead of five; besides which, English merchant vessels shall have a right, in case of damage by storms or other need, to put in at any place along the coast. 2nd. England shall have a legation at Pekin, as Russia has. This legation is to consist at least of five members, and its chief personage is to have official relations with the Chinese Government. 3rd. English military posts are to be established in all the cities where English consuls or consular agents reside. A piece of land shall be granted to the English at Canton, Shanghai, and Hong Kong [the correspondent of the *Pays* evidently does not know what he is talking about here], to erect forts and form military establishments there; the strength of these garrisons is to be settled by mutual consent. In addition to these three principal conditions, there are some secondary points, left to the discretion of the English commissioner." [The whole statement is to be received with reserve.]

The *Moniteur* of the fleet publishes some further details relative to the war with China. The Chinese, it is said, are making formidable military preparations, which are not to be despised. They have executed enormous works on the Pei Hoa river, which falls into the Yellow Sea, and by which a communication is maintained with Pekin. That river is now barred in twenty-two places, by dams built of stone, which completely intercept the navigation. Moreover, the three canalised branches of the Pei Hoa are cut, and the course of one of them has been turned into the lake of Kohoo Tehi. When an army invades the Chinese empire, the principal means of defence is to let the waters of this lake overflow the country. Pekin is consequently perfectly safe from attack either by land or sea. A small river at Whampoa, from which British ships had been in the custom of taking water, has been poisoned by the Chinese. It appears that some of the wealthiest mandarins, through personal interest, are highly favourable to an arrangement with the English, and they can bring their influence to bear directly on the Emperor's advisers. The *Moniteur* of the fleet concludes that an arrangement of the existing difficulties is perfectly possible; the British Government have merely to adopt the only means efficacious with the Chinese character, which is to make a formidable demonstration on the coast of the empire.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

More than 200 applicants appeared in Washington for every appointment in the gift of the Administration.

The Sound Dues treaty was unanimously adopted at Copenhagen, on the 15th inst., by the Council of Ministers.

A telegraphic account from St. Petersburg of the 15th states that the ice had on the previous day begun to break up on the Neva.

A telegraphic message from Athens, dated April 11, states that a "Financial Commission has declared that the Greek Ministry had extravagantly spent the Greek revenues."

Letters from St. Petersburg say that the administration of Poland is likely to be separated entirely from that of Russia; and that the Grand Duke Michael, directly after his marriage, will be appointed Stadtholder of the kingdom.

It is reported that General Todleben admitted to the Emperor of the French that an immediate advance of the Allies after the battle of the Alma must have led to the capture of Sebastopol, as there were only two battalions in the place.

The *German Journal* of Frankfort reports that a serious conflict had occurred at Mentz between the Prussian and Austrian soldiers composing the garrison. One statement is, that four carriages were filled with killed and wounded. The whole of the troops had been confined to barracks.

We are glad to record two more marriages of respectable widows of Kvaeth which a native friend tells us were celebrated in Calcutta with great pomp and *clat*, and numerously attended by several respectable members of the Hindoo community.—*Bengal Hurkaru*, March 10.

The ministerial crisis in Denmark has resulted in the retirement of Scheele from political life and the victory of the Danish Constitutional party, which in foreign politics may be identified with the well-known watchword—"Denmark to the Eider." Andrae has been entrusted by the King with the task of filling the two posts vacated by Scheele.

The *Prussian Correspondence* states that the epidemic now raging among cattle in Poland having spread to the districts bordering on the Prussian frontier, the Prussian Government has taken measures to prevent the importation of cattle from those districts, and that a company of infantry has been sent to the circle of Plesse, in order to cut off all communication.

The *Tagus*, one of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers, towed into Plymouth, on Wednesday, the emigrant-ship *Martin Luther*, of Liverpool, with 550 souls on board. The *Tagus* fell in with the *Martin Luther* about eighteen miles from Ushant; she was dismasted—a complete wreck, having suffered in a tremendous gale on Monday; had not the *Tagus* come to her aid the worst consequences would probably have ensued, as the ship was helpless in a rough sea.

Prince Alfred, who is still at Geneva, is expected, at the beginning of May, to arrive at Gotha, where he will reside for a short time at Schloss Rosenau. At the conclusion of this visit to the territories of which the young prince will probably, one day, be the reigning monarch, he will repair to the University at Bonn, and pass some few terms there. Bonn is the Christchurch of Germany; Prince Albert, the young Princes of Prussia, and many of our own nobility and gentry, have matriculated and studied there.—*Letter in the Times*.

The *Canadian News* contains a paragraph showing the rapid growth of the press in Canada during the last few years—a growth which corresponds with the advance of wealth, intelligence, and public order in that distinguished province of the British Empire. Forty years ago we learn there were only six newspapers published in the whole of Upper and Lower Canada. At the present time, Canada alone, exclusive of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island, supports no less than nineteen daily and 172 bi-weekly, tri-weekly, or weekly papers, as well as thirty-five monthly or quarterly publications. The total number of newspapers and periodicals issued in Canada is 226. In the wake of a journalism so active and enlightened, a colonial literature of less ephemeral sort will probably follow.

GOSSIP FROM ITALY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ROME, April 4th, 1857.

Since the date of my last, the punctilious pride of the Austrian Cabinet has added another element of distrust to the many difficulties which already beset the counsels of Italian statesmen. The interruption of diplomatic relations between the Courts of Turin and Vienna is viewed with satisfaction by the dominant party here, who, with the usual short sight of party spirit in Italy, yield to a petty exultation at every check received by the Liberal statesmen of Piedmont, and in time past had not even the decency to conceal their impious triumph in the bereavements which afflicted the Royal Family of that country—which bereavements they were pleased to consider to be tokens of the displeasure of Heaven and punishments for the hostility of the Government to the temporal dominion and ascendancy of the Church of Rome. The Republican party, on the other hand, hail with satisfaction the prospect of troubled councils and hostile demonstrations as likely to yield them an opportunity for bringing about once more the period of revolution and anarchy, in which alone they see a hope of gaining for themselves a share in the Government of their country, and of introducing those changes in administration which they probably

sincerely think to be for their country's good. The opinion of most, however, seems to be, that both these extreme parties will be disappointed, that the Sardinian Government will be little embarrassed by a cessation of intercourse which, from the position of the two countries concerned, cannot be of long duration, and that neither the vast empire nor the small kingdom will choose to incur the responsibility of pushing matters to an extremity, and so of involving Italy, if not Europe, in the evils of war. At the same time, it is observed that the Austrian Cabinet makes but a sorry figure in imitating, in their conduct towards the intelligent and strong Government of Piedmont, the policy adopted by the Allies towards the weak and imbecile ruler of Naples.

The attention of the Government is just now directed to the construction of a system of railways in the Papal States. It appears to be resolved that a complete system of railway communication shall be provided from Rome to the Venetian frontier, and from Rome to Civita Vecchia. The concession of the whole of these two lines has been made to one company, the regulations for which, as mentioned in my last letter, have been published in the official paper. The proposed capital is divided into a hundred and seventy thousand shares of five hundred francs each. Of these forty thousand are reserved for subscription in the Roman States, and the Roman journal of yesterday announces the opening of the subscriptions which are to terminate on the 8th instant. The same journal publishes a circular from the Minister of Public Works to the delegates of the provinces inviting their attention to the subscription, and desiring their co-operation in the disposal of the shares. The first call is to be of one hundred and fifty francs, payable at the time of subscription; the second of one hundred francs is to be made on the completion of the line from Rome to Civita Vecchia, which is fixed for the second half of 1858; and the third on the opening of the line from Bologna to Ancona, for which, as some think wisely, no period is fixed. In the meantime the company has got into some difficulties, engineering and legal. It appears to be difficult to continue the terminus at Civita Vecchia so as not to injure the harbour and fortifications, and a contract for a part of the works on the Bologna side which has been sold to a French contractor, is claimed by an English company on the ground of a previous sale to them of the same contract. As an inducement for them to withdraw their competition for the line, a process to decide the dispute is now pending. The railway to the Neapolitan frontier which was opened last year to within four miles of Frascati, is said to be slowly advancing. As showing the feeling of some of the Romans on the subject of railways, I may mention that having occasion to use this line a few days since, I saw a respectable individual devoutly cross himself as the whistle of the engine gave its usual signal of the departure of the train. Perhaps some of your Protestant readers may require to be reminded that the making the sign of the cross is an exorcism of great avail against all danger, moral or physical.

His Holiness has been lately engaged in the consecration of two new German cardinals, who have come to Rome for the purpose. It is said that a new creation of members of the Sacred College may possibly shortly take place; and it is to be observed, as a sign of the opinion held by the rulers of the Church of the eligibility of their countrymen in the inferior ranks of the hierarchy, and of the necessity felt by them of strengthening the Church by the support of foreign powers, that most of the late creations have been among subjects of Ultramontane powers, as is also likely to be the case for the future. The only Roman official who is spoken of as likely to be soon elevated to the purple, is Monsignor Matteucci, the Minister of Police, who has discharged his very difficult functions with great firmness and moderation, and by his vigorous precautionary measures, has nearly put an end to the nocturnal depredations of marauders, whose audacity had made the ill-lighted streets of Rome as dangerous as the suburbs of London. There has been some talk of a partial amnesty, to be proclaimed at Easter, for some of the agitators of the State; but it appears to be doubtful whether late events, light alarms weighing heavily on timid counsels, may not delay the good intentions of the sovereign. The town of Ravenna has been the scene of two audacious assassinations of two of the principal inhabitants, and a few days since the Governor of Marino, a small town on the Alban hills, well known to tourists, from its picturesque situation, was assassinated in his own house and justice-hall, by an individual to whom, as being a suspected character, he refused to give a passport. The assassin also wounded the wife of the Governor, who rushed into the hall on hearing her husband's cries. The trial of the poor criminal has

been already begun, and will probably terminate in a few days in his execution, on the scene of his crime. I also hear, that within the last day or two, two other murders have been committed in the same town, the population of which may amount to some 5,000 souls. Rome has been honoured by a visit from the Count of Syracuse, one of the brothers of the King of Naples. The Count had an audience of the Pope immediately on his arrival. The Grand Duchess Olga of Wurtemberg, arrives to-day, but the Empress Dowager still delays her journey, and, it is now said, will not arrive in Rome till after Easter, to the great vexation of the Romans, who expected to make a large harvest in the expense incurred by her suite, and to the great delight of the tourists, many of whom would have been deprived of their usual share in the sights of the Papal Court, during Easter week, as the best places would have been taken up by the Empress and her suite.

THE OPIUM TRADE AND MISSIONS.

The following are extracts from the letters of missionaries to China in connection with different societies, both English and American. The American missionaries at Canton, in a report of their proceedings for the year 1849, say:—

We wish to advert to the obstacles we encounter in the opium trade, and the extensive use among the Chinese of this drug. This most seductive vice is on the increase, carrying poverty and disease wherever it goes, and is rapidly impoverishing the empire. We have only a limited knowledge of the evil which this practice occasions; but what we see proves conclusively its bad effects. It is draining the country of specie at the rate of about twelve millions of dollars annually; and that, too, from a land where no national bank, or system of credit, enables the government or people to get along with a substitute for the precious metals. The contraband trade in opium induces a disregard of all law, and leads to smuggling in other articles; while it raises up and encourages a set of miscreants and pirates along the coast, who are too ready to act against their own authorities in connection with the foreign vessels bringing the articles on the coast. It places a temptation to indulgence before a people who have confessedly but little principle to resist even what they know to be wrong, and thus does much to destroy all moral rectitude, and strengthen habits of vice. Its use, as well as its abuse, destroys property, health, intellect, and life, either partially or wholly, and has done so already in a great degree. And, lastly, its introduction constantly sets against us the best portion of the Chinese people, who associate foreigners of every name and occupation with this pernicious traffic.

The Rev. L. B. Peet, American missionary at Fuhchan, dating his letter Jan. 23, 1856, says:—

Since my arrival at this port, in 1847, two works have been published by native scholars which treat of this subject. One, the celebrated Chinese geography, published by the former Lieut. Governor of this province, treats of the subject historically. This work shows where, by whom, and for whom, opium is grown and sold; how the English Government is connected with it, and how profited by it, and lays the blame of a large part of this traffic where it justly belongs, upon the shoulders of that government.

The other work is a collection of pieces, both in prose and poetry, from some tens of different scholars of this city, published by one of the Lin family, son of the celebrated opium commissioner Lin, who destroyed the opium at Canton previous to the war. The work was published in the first year of the present reigning Emperor of China; it is in six volumes, and entitled "An Arrow Shot at a Bad Bird nested in Black-rock Hill Tower," i.e., the British Consulate in the city. The work opens on the subject of opium in the first volume, treats of it historically, giving the statistics of the trade for a number of years, showing how the English Government is benefited by it, and how the Chinese are impoverished and ruined by the use of the drug, and then inveighs strongly against the avarice of the English in imposing upon the Chinese this poison, even by the force of arms. "Were our hills gold, and our silver as abundant as the ocean, they would not satisfy the avarice of the English."

From the Rev. C. C. Baldwin, American missionary at Fuhchan, January, 1856:—

I have been a missionary at this port nearly eight years, during six or seven of which I have been more or less actively engaged in teaching the Gospel, or preaching it, to the multitude. The character of such a work has naturally furnished innumerable occasions for conversation, debate, and inquiry, on the part of the people, on what interested them most; and I need not say that one of the most prominent topics, if not the most prominent one, has been opium. It is sometimes said they will have it (opium) in some way; and so, probably, they will, as long as it can be found; still the fact is confirmed by long and close observation, that they sincerely and deeply feel the curse that smites them. They charge the evil upon us to our faces, often with a triumphant air and expressions of scorn. Think of a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ being compelled, almost daily, to refute such an odious charge! And when successful in disproving personal guilt, we see, with pain, that our influence is shorn of its strength, because candour compels us to admit that we belong to the same nation with dealers in opium. They immediately take a short turn upon us with this, or the like, "You must first exhort them not to bring the opium here." All evils seem thrown into the shade by that of the depraving effects of the trade and use of opium among the people. It is undeniable that the effect is to blunt the moral sensibilities as perhaps no similar vice ever does."

From the Rev. W. Wilton, church missionary at Fuhchan, April 10, 1856:—

The Chinese retort upon the missionaries thus:—"Why do you Christians bring us opium in defiance of our laws? This vile drug has poisoned my son, ruined my brother, and well nigh led me to beggar my wife and children." When recommending Gospel truth to this people, we are constantly taunted with being the intro-

ducers of this noxious drug; and when we endeavour to dissuade them from the use of it, they say, "You bring it to us, and yet tell us not to use it," venting their indignation at our apparent hypocrisy in so doing; and it is very difficult to convince them of the contrary. My colleagues, Messrs. Fearnley and McCaw, tell me that they were walking on the city walls some days ago and the Chinese, excited by curiosity, as is the custom, asked politely who they were; and on being told they were Englishmen, they addressed them at once, referring to the evils of the opium traffic, and showing how much they identify the traffic with Englishmen. The Chinese themselves are the best judges of the evil of opium, morally and physically; and they testify largely to us missionaries and medical men their abhorrence of it, considering it a moral bondage and physical slavery. The late Lieutenant-Governor of this city (Fuhchan), author of a Chinese geography in five volumes, an enlightened and liberal Chinese, in treating of India, writes—"How strange it is that the same country which produced and gave us Buddhism, should also give us opium!" meaning to imply, how strange it is that good and evil should emanate from the same source! Our teachers and literary men have great horror of opium, and will not be seen or known to have anything to do with it, and those among them who use it are regarded with distrust. I once asked my teacher if he could procure for me an order to have some opium for medical purposes. I shall never forget his stern objection to do anything of the sort, and I think he would almost have left my service had I urged him to do so. The better and higher classes revolt at the idea of legalising the introduction of opium, and the Imperial Government, although hard pressed for money to carry on the defence of the dynasty, dare not sanction such a step, knowing that it would at once seal their fate as a Government.

THE CHINESE COOLIE TRADE.

The Parliamentary Return, relating generally to the Chinese coolie trade and especially to the late remarkable mortality on board the ship *Portland*, where, out of 382 coolies taken on board at Hong Kong and Macao, 128 died before reaching the Havannah, has been published. The correspondence upon the subject in some measure illustrates the nature of the coolie trade. The captain of the *Portland*, in his evidence, stated that the Chinese were no sooner all on board than they attempted a mutiny. A police force came on board, and the coolies at length were driven below at the point of the bayonet. This disturbance arose from the men having been cheated of their bounty, eight dollars each. The mate states:—"I understand from the interpreter that the cause of the disturbance arose from the promised amount of money in advance not having been paid." The interpreter states:—"I believe the men got only one dollar." The captain, indeed, states that he "believes" they received their eight dollars; but the only reason he assigns for his belief is, that "there had been a previous row about it in the *John Calvin*." The captain also states:—"I believe one-third of them had been kidnapped." The attempt was suppressed, and every precaution taken to prevent its repetition. A limited number of coolies at a time were only permitted on the upper deck; the ships crew were armed, and the captain "never lay down without his cutlass." The coolies soon after sailing became dispirited, committed suicide, or fell sick and died like sheep. "The third day," says the captain "I had the first suicide, and, on an average, I had three suicides daily between Hong Kong and until I passed the Straits of Sunda." It was a low typhoid fever that broke out. "Within a week after sailing," says the surgeon, "as many as sixty cases had appeared. The number of deaths," he adds, "was nearly the same all the voyage, but increased in malignity." Suicides and attempts at suicide were frequent. "Those of the Chinese who attempted to commit suicide and were picked up generally made a second attempt; they were then more carefully looked after." "I had usually," says the captain, "twelve to eighteen in irons for riotous behaviour or attempted suicide." The poor creatures refused to take food. "When they would not eat," says the captain, "I have tried to force their food down their throats." The cause of this frightful mortality appears mainly to have arisen from an infringement of the Chinese Passenger Act, which requires for each passenger a space of five superficial feet on the upper and twelve superficial feet on the lower deck. In the case of the *Portland*, about three superficial feet above and eight below were only allowed. A despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Sir John Bowring, calling his attention to this palpable infringement of the Passenger Act, concludes the correspondence.

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 22, 1857.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

PARIS, TUESDAY, 8.46 P.M.—In yesterday's sitting of the Neuchâtel conference, propositions for the settlement of the Neuchâtel affair were successfully concerted between the Plenipotentiaries, those for Prussia and Switzerland included; and Dr. Kern, the Swiss Plenipotentiary, has, in consequence, left this day for Berne, as the bearer of these propositions to his Government.—*Morning Star*.

On Monday the Grand Duke Constantine arrived at Toulon. Admiral Trehouart and the naval authorities received him with the usual honours, and the Duke dined with the Mayor.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.

Mr. Charles Butler having sent to Mr. Gladstone a speech of Mr. James Hall, and asking for an explanation as to the charge made against him therein, Mr. Gladstone replies:—

11, Carlton House-terrace, April 16.

Sir,—I thank you for taking the pains to send me an extract from *The Globe* newspaper, purporting to be the speech of Mr. James Hall, of Holywell, at a public meeting recently held in that town, which you think should be noticed on my behalf.

On the occasion of that meeting, the proceedings of which were not, I believe, taken down by reporters, I made a speech relating to the election for Flintshire. A gentleman, who was described to me as Mr. James Hall, made a speech relating to me, and when he had concluded I replied to him. This, you will agree, was the proper notice of his speech to receive from me.

I presume from the paper you have sent me that he has subsequently furnished his own account of that speech, and of what he considers to have been its reception. In that I have neither leisure nor inclination to follow him. The question whether his invective is merited rebuke or unequivocal slander, is happily one of fact—namely, whether it is true, as he says, that at the period of Mr. Roebuck's motion Lord Palmerston consented to it, and I, with others, took pretended offence to his consenting, and resigned, or whether the truth is, that Lord Palmerston likewise resigned office in January, 1856, rather than agree to Mr. Roebuck's motion; that Lord Palmerston informed me, before I joined his Government in February, that he intended to continue his resistance, and that on his changing his mind, together with the great majority of his colleagues, whilst I simply adhered to mine, I was deprived of office as a necessary consequence.

The account of the matter, which I have briefly given, stands wholly upon public record, and upon undisputed statements made at the time in the House of Commons.

The spirit (as towards myself) in which you wrote has induced me to trouble you with these remarks, of which you are welcome to make any use you please.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your faithful servant,

Charles Butler, Esq.

W. E. GLADSTONE.

LEITH (COUNTY) ELECTION.—Brady, Montgomery, and Tennison were nominated yesterday. A poll was demanded. [This is the last Irish election, having from accidental causes been postponed.]

It is rumoured at the clubs—but upon what authority we are at present unable to state—that the Address on the Queen's Speech on the opening of the new Parliament will be moved in the House of Commons by Lord Althorp, M.P. for South Northamptonshire, and seconded by Mr. Weguelin, M.P. for Southampton. In the House of Lords, the Address will probably be moved by Viscount Eversley.—*Morning Star*.

THE IRISH CHIEF SECRETARSHIP.—We believe the difference between Lord Palmerston and the member for Stroud has, for the present, been arranged, and that the public will have the "benefit" of Mr. Horsman's continuance in office. Among the very first members returned for England was Mr. Horsman. It was reasonably expected that his mind, relieved from the troubles incident to his own election, would be attracted to Ireland, where "York was greatly wanted." But York retired to Scotland to look after his own affairs, leaving Irish candidates and Irish elections to take care of themselves. Paragraphs in the London journals to the effect that the Irish elections had been mismanaged ruffled the usually good temper of Lord Palmerston, and Mr. Horsman was asked for an explanation. What may have transpired we know not; but the upshot was a determination on the part of Mr. Horsman to vacate his office. This resolution first appeared in *The Scotsman*, and our London correspondent confirmed the resignation with the additional fact that Mr. Bernal Osborne was to be his successor. However, for the present, Mr. Horsman retains the office.—*Dublin Freeman Journal*.

The following is the bulletin issued yesterday respecting the Duchess of Gloucester: "Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester has passed a restless night. Her Royal Highness continues very languid and weak."

The Bishop of Exeter is again indisposed. His lordship's illness is not of a very serious nature, but his medical attendant has advised quietness and rest for a few days, in the hope that he will thereby be restored to health.

The execution of Thomas Nation, convicted at the late Somerset Assizes of the murder of John Aplin, near Wiveliscombe, in December last, took place on Monday morning in front of the county goal at Taunton. His father and brother had interviews with the culprit on Thursday and Monday, but on neither of these occasions could he be induced to make any direct confession of his guilt. He admitted that he deserved his fate for other crimes, but resolutely denied that he was the murderer of Aplin. The crowd who witnessed the execution was variously estimated at from 6,000 to 8,000, almost exclusively of the lower orders. Their behaviour was for the most part becoming, and after the wretched culprit ceased to exist they quietly dispersed.

MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

The arrivals of English wheat fresh to-day, were very limited. Good and fine samples moved off steadily, at fully Monday's advance in the quotations; but inferior parcels sold slowly, at late rates. Although we were well supplied with foreign wheat, the trade was steady, and prices were well supported. Floating cargoes of grain were dull, but not cheaper. There was a good inquiry for barley, at the extreme rates of Monday. Malt was steady, but not dearer. We had a good inquiry for oats, beans, peas, and flour, at very full prices.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1857.

SUMMARY.

THE new Parliament is to assemble, as we learn from a circular issued by the Ministerial whipper-in, on Thursday, the 30th inst. The first business will be the election of Speaker. Mr. Hayter expresses a hope that "the whole of the Liberal party will attend and concur" in the election of Mr. Evelyn Denison, who is announced as the Government candidate, and will perhaps be chosen to occupy the chair without opposition.

Though we have no certain information of the drift of Lord Palmerston's policy, there are not a few indications of the course he is likely to pursue. A Liberal contemporary, *The Leader*, professes to know that the Cabinet has already discussed the points of a possible Reform Bill, and it is understood, intends to set them aside in favour of what are called direct measures of administrative and social improvement. *The Observer*, a Ministerial organ, specifically mentions "important measures" which are to be proceeded with when the session opens, including a bill for the continuance of the General Board of Health; the reform of the courts of law and Chancery; a measure in reference to the rights of married women as regards their own property; a bill to put the system of local taxation on a more satisfactory basis; and one for the abolition of tolls. An article in the last number of *The Edinburgh Review*, on the elections and the new Parliament, leads to the same conclusion. The Whig—or to speak more correctly—the Palmerstonian Quarterly—elaborately discusses the political events of the last three months in the spirit of a thorough-going Ministerial partisan. The several sections or members of the "coalition" against the present Government on Mr. Cobden's motion—as the Reviewer persists in designating the majority—are unsparingly condemned. Mr. Gladstone's career as a statesman is reviewed, his honesty impugned, his financial schemes pronounced to be egregious failures, and his future position predicted as certain to be one of complete isolation. The rejection of the advanced Liberals of the old House is rejoiced in as removing an obstacle to "party discipline." "A heavy blow has been struck at that crotchety and useless class of politicians, who, being perplexed with uneasy consciences, insist upon viewing every question on its abstract merits, rather, as Thucydides says, as if they were listening to the disputes of sophists than as if they were deliberating concerning the state. . . . Men who refuse to look at practical questions from this practical point of view have mistaken their vocation when they enter public life, and should seek out some occupation in which the habitual sacrifice of individual conviction to objects more general and more remote is not an indispensable condition of success." In other words, it is necessary for the future that every question should be looked at by Liberals through Lord Palmerston's spectacles.

But though the Independent Liberals are ostracised, there is still some danger in Lord Palmerston's path, "not in the attitude of his ostensible opponents, but in the designs of those who seek to supplant him in the leadership of the Liberal party." Accordingly Lord John Russell, the object of eulogy by *The Edinburgh* time out of mind, is now singled out for especial attack. No quarter is given to the reputation of

the politician who presumes to set himself up as Lord Palmerston's rival. His mistakes are magnified, his merits slurred over. Faithless to his colleagues, actuated by spleen and envy, careless of the honour of his country in comparison with personal aggrandisement, Lord J. Russell is paraded as the degraded and disqualified statesman. The Reviewer then pointedly contrasts with these great political failures the triumphant position of Lord Palmerston, the favourite of the nation—the attempt to remove whom would endanger "the most vital point of our Constitution—the existence of a Government responsible to the House of Commons." We are told that "the elections have given back no uncertain response to his appeal; and since the Parliament which laid the foundation of the great Administration of Mr. Pitt, England has not seen a House of Commons elected with so strong and all-pervading a confidence in the name and the fortunes of any single Minister." The country "has nobly done its part" in giving its trust to Lord Palmerston, and the Prime Minister will do his part by inaugurating a new policy. What is it to be? "We anticipate," says the Reviewer, "that the new Parliament will be at once liberal and moderate, friendly to practical improvements, and averse to sweeping organic changes." The House of Commons must be satisfied for a time "with the all-pervading confidence in a name," and small tinkering in the shape of practical reforms, which any clerk at Downing-street could suggest. Such is the Palmerstonian programme for the coming session!

The country awaits in a state of expectancy the opening of the new Parliament, and there is at present no general disposition to out-door movement. But Lord Palmerston may find himself mistaken in expecting independent Liberals to become tamely subservient. The veteran General Thompson has thus early announced his readiness to accept Lord John Russell as the leader of the Reform party, while he denounces the Canton massacre as the "blackest atrocity in history," and declares his opinion that the poisoning case at Hong Kong has been got up by the authorities. "The College of Physicians could not accomplish such a consummation if it tried," as the distribution of poisoned bread to 300 individuals without one fatal result. Mr. Byng and Sir J. Trelawny have also given utterance to views before their constituents not at all of the *Edinburgh Review* stamp. The former hopes that the Premier will not prove to be the "Tory chief of a Radical cabinet; the latter declares himself for greater publicity in diplomacy, self-government, Parliamentary Reform, the ballot and economy—a creed difficult to reconcile with allegiance to the head of the present Government. It is probable that the opinion of a speaker at the Bury Conservative dinner, when he said that Palmerston was as good a Conservative as any gentleman on the other side of the House, will turn out more correct than the sanguine anticipations of Mr. Byng.

Though the suffrage question can scarcely be said to be before the country since the elections, impatient Reformers have here and there given utterance to their views. Meetings in favour of "a large and immediate extension of the suffrage" at Dundee and Hawick have been followed by a working class demonstration in Finsbury to express confidence in the unsuccessful candidates at Manchester, Huddersfield, Rochdale, Oldham, and Leicester, "and to take the sense of the working men of London as to what reforms ought to be demanded from the new Parliament." The decision of the meeting was virtually in favour of the People's Charter—a result which appears to us more adapted to gratify the opponents of all Parliamentary Reform, than promote any practical solution of the question. Such premature movements are only calculated to retard the object they are intended to advance. No reasonable man expects that manhood suffrage can, under existing circumstances, be carried. By insisting upon so large a measure, the working classes, or those who affect to lead them, will succeed in obtaining—nothing.

The week has furnished a noble instance of practical philanthropy in the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Free Library and Museum at Liverpool, the princely gift of Mr. William Brown, the American merchant, to his native town. The member for South Lancashire has used his wealth royally and generously, instead of hoarding it till his death, spending it all in building up a family name, or (still worse) constructing and furnishing a gorgeous palace. He obtains his reward in the affections of a grateful class, who are keenly susceptible to expressions of sympathy, whether on the grand or the small scale. The demonstration at Liverpool last Thursday was thoroughly English; and, spite of Sir John Pakington, and even the evidences lately brought to light of the gross superstition that still lingers in many rural districts, is a sign of the advanced state of education and civilisation amongst us. The dark spots on the surface

of English society are proofs that the sombre hue is the exception, not the rule. The meeting of Liverpool working men, after the other proceedings of the day, was a hearty demonstration in honour of their benefactor. Their spokesmen on that occasion appear to have been ministers of four denominations, Independent, Baptist, Unitarian, and Roman Catholic, who harmoniously co-operated in the grateful work of the day. The clergy and the members of the Establishment it appears, preferred to give expression to their feelings apart from their co-religionists. Perhaps our contemporary, *The Inquirer*, which has recently broken out so violently in admiration of State Church Catholicity and Dissenting Sectarianism, will take note of the fact.

The ill-omened expedition to China is not yet completed, though some of the troop ships have left our ports. Judging from the manner in which the arrangements have thus far been carried out, our Crimean experience seems to have been thrown away upon the authorities of the Admiralty. The break-down of the *Transit* within sight of the English coast, may be followed with other mishaps, ere the armament arrives at the end of its 15,000 miles' voyage. When the expedition reaches China about mid-summer, *The Times* warns us, that it will have "to enter upon a conflict rather with a tropical climate than with a crowd of barbarians, in the hottest season of the year." We learn also from Washington, that the United States Executive decline to be any party to our hostile operations, having only commercial, and not like ourselves political, objects to advance in that region. America will send her independent Plenipotentiary to the Court of Peking.

Continental news is more varied than usual. The presence of the Grand Duke Constantine in France, and the alleged discovery of a gunpowder plot to blow up the Emperor Napoleon at the play, are the latest novelties from Paris. A general election in Spain has, of course, resulted in the return of a majority to the Cortes in favour of Narvaez and his court patrons, at a time when the celebrated Olozaga has been uttering what sounds very much like a dirge over the decease of constitutional freedom. While Piedmont continues to strengthen her military position in view of contingencies, Portugal is preparing, with the aid of Sir Morton Peto, to open up her resources by means of railways. At the present moment the worthy baronet is unquestionably England's best representative in foreign parts.

NOT A TRIFLE AFTER ALL.

DURING the memorable debate in the House of Commons on the bombardment of Canton, the supporters of Mr. Cobden's motion were repeatedly told that the disturbance to which it related was only local, and that it was wilful misrepresentation to assume that we were at war with China. There were certainly some features of the case which went to strengthen this allegation. The Emperor of China had not repudiated the claims which it was Sir John Bowring's policy to enforce, nor had any formal declaration of war been made by either Court. If, however, Lord Palmerston had then made up his mind to demand terms from Peking, which were never likely to be granted, unless under pressure of a dire extremity, or if he had resolved to proceed in this instance, as in that of Persia, by striking a heavy blow first, and setting forth the ultimate object of it afterwards, they could hardly be justly accused of exaggeration who took it for granted that war had actually commenced. It served a purpose, of course, when the elections were just about to take place, to spread abroad a report that the Emperor of China had accepted the demands made upon him, and that the unhappy affair had been brought to a successful termination—just as the like purpose had been successfully served by the report that Sir John Bowring and his family had been poisoned by arsenic, and owed the preservation of their lives only to the providential circumstance that they had taken an over-dose! But now that Parliament has been re-elected, and the majority are regarded as sufficiently Palmerstonian—at least in reference to the Canton affair,—now that no further reason exists for representing the *fracas* with the Chinese as a mere *bagatelle*, we learn from *The Times* not only that a speedy issue of the contest is not to be expected, but that England, which means the mercantile and monied interests of the Metropolis, will not be content without a sanguinary war.

The Times is dissatisfied that General Ashburnham, who goes out to command the troops, is as discreet a soldier as Lord Elgin is a plenipotentiary. "What makes the deficiency on the military side a more serious affair," says *The Times*, "is that there are people who assume there is to be no fighting. Lord Palmerston does not assume this, for he knows very well that the terms he stands out for will not be obtained without an appeal to arms. . . . The truth is,

that we are not sending a second expedition to China for nothing. We are about to make demands, and are resolved to have them complied with. *They are such as the Emperor of China will not concede without positive and painful proof of his inability to refuse them.* There will be war, and we confess to a misgiving whether General Ashburnham is exactly the man for taking sudden possession of Canton, marching on Peking, or seizing the three or four new ports to be opened to foreign trade." We are to have war, then, on a grand scale—not so much because it is needed, as because we are going to make demands such as war on a grand scale only can enforce. Perhaps, also, we may discover a further, or rather, an ulterior reason, in the following significant passage from the same article:—"The last war finished but a year ago with a grand display, intended to show that we were prepared either to proceed with that war, if necessary, or at a moment's warning to enter on any new one that the honour of the country might impose on us. We had also acquired much experience, but that was a mental gain; here, however, was a material acquisition which could be readily measured, and no one could deny. Twelve months ago we were ready, so it was said, to sail in force to the Crimea or Central America, or anywhere that duty might call us to. Since that time ships and gunboats then in progress have been completed; stores largely drawn on have been recruited; a fleet and an army have come home."

Looking at the case in the new aspect under which it presents itself, we must confess that Lord Palmerston's determination is just what might have been anticipated. We can hardly blame him, seeing that the constituent body professedly endorsed his foreign policy, particularly as it regarded China. It would not answer his purpose to carry on a little war—nor the purpose of our mercantile firms to send a second expedition to China for nothing. "A little war" would not make the noble Premier a necessity in the estimation of the middle classes—it would not serve to divert public attention from domestic affairs—it would not justify the continued maintenance of excessive military and naval establishments—it would not serve as a pretext for postponing Parliamentary Reform—in one word, and that used in a ministerial sense, it would not pay. Besides, Lord Palmerston knows as well as most men, that if he is to retain commercial sympathies, he must consult commercial wants. He has a large stock of *matériel* on hand, left over by the sudden conclusion of the war with Russia, and he deems it the shrewdest economy to utilise it. "Large demands" will cover a multitude of sins. He sees clearly enough that his justification by this trading community will rest at last upon the advantages he obtains for them. He who aims at little is a filibuster—it is only by seizing much that violence loses its character of injustice. China is a large and populous empire—China is a vast theatre wherein to push trade—and, lastly, China is a weak empire as it respects its defensive resources. Who can doubt, therefore, that in the ordinations of Divine Providence, China is doomed to yield to the civilisation of the West? To place before her exorbitant terms is the true policy of our thoroughly English minister—to ask terms such as will inevitably coerce her into resistance. Then, when we have made her fight, and beaten her as we are sure to do, our negotiations will, of course, be regulated chiefly by our own convenience. At any rate, it is only by making the war a profitable one, that the people will go heartily with it—and it can only be made commercially profitable by carrying it on on a grand scale.

But what of the morality of this proceeding? We refrain from inquiring into its religious sanction, the Evangelical prelates, clergy, newspapers, and electors having given Lord Palmerston their full warrant for that. But are we to understand for the future that international morality justifies a stronger nation in coercing a weaker one, whenever the convenience of the former will be promoted by such a course? Are we as a people, to do what *The Edinburgh Review* inculcates as a duty on members of Parliament, sink our notions of the abstract merits of every case, and not allow individual convictions of conscience to stand in the way of practical good? Why, then, are we not consistent? Why do we abuse the United States for coveting Cuba? Why did we denounce as selfish and piratical the doctrine of the Ostend Conference? Why did we go to war with Russia? Let us have done with pretence and cant! Let us openly avow that our convenience is the soul of our international morality. Let us tell the world that our rule of right is to hold what we have and take what we can. Why seek to hide our purpose under hypocritical pleas and sanctimonious professions? British honour means British interests—it will save us from a thousand embarrassments to own it. If we are to become Palmerstonian in policy, in the name of all that's frank and straightforward, let us re-

fuse to be made Palmerstonian in duplicity. Let us, at least, be above cheating ourselves, and trying to cheat others, into the belief that we are saints whilst we are playing the sinner, and fancying, that because we can afford to wear white kid gloves that, therefore, we have a right to insist upon it that we have clean hands.

In profound discouragement and in deepest sorrow do we make these observations. We had cherished the hope, under all former manifestations of public temper, that our country, however wayward, was yet sound at heart. We will still hope that the spirit of trade has not eaten out that love of justice which was once the source of its national life. But we begin to stand in doubt. What if we should turn out to be only grand Fillibusters, after all? Heaven, in mercy, forbend! But if it must be, we are certainly under fitting guidance. No doubt, we shall rejoice in splendid strokes of luck—but, alas! the seeds of national decay will have already quickened in our midst, and we shall share the fate of other great empires. We are sorry, we say, to be troubled with these gloomy prognostications—but we cannot resist them. "God is above all," is a popular adage in which we thoroughly believe; and it bodes no good to a people when once they have given themselves up to sordid passion.

THE BALLOT.

ON no current political question is there more room for misrepresentation than the ballot; in none is there a greater amount of what the Americans call "Bunkum" uttered. John Bull is at his best a weak man, and mainly ruled through his prejudices. Tell him that the national flag is insulted, and he will fire up, though the offenders be no better of notice than a Chinese mandarin. No one is more open to the influence of vulgar appeals. Who shall say how far the continual exhibition in front of the hustings of the big and little loaf, went to decide the question of corn law repeal? The opponents of the ballot take advantage of this weakness. John Bull's presumed love of fair play, openness, and directness is appealed to *usque ad nauseam*. You may urge that secret voting is, in the present state of society, absolutely necessary for the protection of the elector; that in a time of political excitement property can scarcely refrain from exercising an illegitimate pressure upon the poor voter; but you are met at once with the truism that the franchise is a trust, and with the clamour that the ballot is alien to British habits and institutions—in a word, un-English. For years past an overwhelming majority of the Liberal party in the House of Commons has been favourable to a trial of this proposed remedy for bribery and intimidation; yet it has always been pertinaciously opposed by their leaders, on the grounds we have mentioned. We have passed the most stringent Corrupt Practices at Election Acts, which have successively failed. The late general election has furnished the most unequivocal evidence of the inadequacy of all such stringent enactments to protect the honest voter. Having tried every other remedy for bribery and corruption, we seem at last to be driven to the ballot by the exhaustive process. Henceforward the question will occupy a new and more advantageous position.

There is reason to believe that the supporters of secret voting in the House of Commons were so largely augmented at the recent elections that they now constitute a majority in Parliament. Lord John Russell and Sir James Graham are both hesitating on a point of policy on which they have hitherto been very decided; and it will be recollected that the latter expressed his belief to some of his Carlisle friends, that the day was approaching when the ballot would become a necessity. When Parliament meets, the petitions against new members for bribery and intimidation will be very numerous, and will, we believe, furnish additional proof, if required, of the total inadequacy of legislative enactments without the ballot.

All experience proves the flimsy nature of the objections made to secret voting. For many months past the active and indefatigable Ballot Society have been accumulating evidence, showing the successful working of their remedy for electoral corruption in Belgium, Sardinia, the United States, and other countries. But their most forcible illustration of the beneficial influence of secret voting is drawn from our own colonies, amongst the Anglo-Saxon race. When the electoral law was first proposed for the province of Victoria in Australia, open voting was the principle advocated by the ministers of the day. But instead of following the example of the mother-country, Mr. Nicholson, a member of the Legislative Council, and a gentleman of high position and experience in the colony, urged the adoption of vote by ballot. The proposal was strenuously resisted for a time, but, at length became part of the constitution of Victoria. At the elections which took place a few

months ago for that colony, the ballot had a fair trial. The Australian papers are almost unanimous in bearing testimony to its entire success; and judging from that result, secret voting has become an established institution, both in Victoria and in Tasmania. According to *The Melbourne Herald* the ballot "operated in a manner which not only satisfied the expectations of its most sanguine advocates, but actually won over as converts some of those who were previously its most determined opponents, both in and out of the legislature." *The Argus* bears similar testimony:—"Not a single complaint against the working of the ballot, or of any underhand or unfair practices reached our ear during our visits to the polling places;" and gives the opinion of the returning officer for St. Kilda, who, though opposed to the principle of the ballot, testified to its favourable working. The other principal Melbourne paper, *The Age*, describes secret voting as having proved "a safety valve to the people," and adds, "The ballot has saved many a man from having a mortgage foreclosed upon him, as was the case under the old system, where a man exercised his own free will." At the South Melbourne election, the following were the words of the returning officer, on declaring the poll:—"I hope one day all will be in favour of the ballot, for the ballot never will be overturned. The report of its successful operation here will go home and strengthen the hands of the popular party in England, who were working towards the same great end." Similar evidence of the successful operation of secret voting in Geelong, Ballarat, and Tasmania, might be quoted from the local papers. If the ballot in Australia has abolished bribery, reduced intimidation to its lowest extent, enabled election proceedings to be conducted in the most peaceful and orderly manner, and even largely increased the number of electors who recorded their votes in the polling booths—why should not the same effects follow in the mother-country? "Let us hear no more," justly exclaims *The Examiner*, "of the Anglo-Saxon argument against the ballot. Victoria has knocked it on the head, and, after full experience of the evils of the open poll, for it was the experience of those evils that called the ballot party into existence, and supplied Mr. Nicholson and his friends with the artillery of argument that carried the day."

In our last number we printed the substance of a Parliamentary paper, describing the actual arrangements by which the ballot is carried into effect in Australia. No one can have read that document without observing how ingeniously the system is adapted both to insure secrecy in the recording of votes and prevent corrupt tampering with the ballot-box. On both these points Mr. Nicholson, who is still in this country, and who has done so much to familiarise the British public with the ballot as a practical reform, has given conclusive evidence. "In the elections in Victoria," he says, "there were some close contests; in one large district the successful candidate was returned by a majority of twelve, in another by a majority of one, and in another by the casting vote of the returning officer, but never had a returning officer been charged with making a false return."

It is remarkable that in connection with the late election, we have heard far more of the undue influence exercised over electors by the employers of labour in our boroughs, than by the landed aristocracy in country districts. For one such case as that of the Marquis of Waterford who, in reply to the humble request of his tenants in the county of Londonderry, that they might be permitted to exercise freedom of choice, curtly said that he desired them to vote for his own nominees, we have a dozen showing the coercive tendencies of the mercantile and monied aristocracy of our great towns. The ballot is needed for the protection of the voter in large as well as in small constituencies—in Huddersfield, Rochdale, and Manchester, as well as in Dudley, Kidderminster, and Chatham. There is in some quarters a great disposition to underrate the advantages of secret voting in connection with any new reform measure that may be proposed. On this subject we quote the following timely remarks of *The Manchester Examiner*:—"The extension of the suffrage will meet with little opposition from any class or party in the House of Commons. And why? Because experience has proved that the influence of position and property can be exercised to induce or compel the dependent voter to act in obedience to the will, caprice, or interest of those who wield the power they confer. The extension of the franchise without the ballot will place the mass of householders in all our large manufacturing towns in precisely the same position as the 50% tenant-at-will clause in the Reform Bill of 1832 placed the majority of the occupiers of land in the counties. Every mill, warehouse, or workshop in Manchester would become a mere appendage to the power or political importance of the owner. It would entail the demoralisation of wholesale serfship throughout those great es-

establishments, wherein hundreds of intelligent and thoughtful men depend for employment or subsistence on the will perhaps of a single man. We have had evidence enough, in the late Manchester election, how unscrupulously the power of position will be abused to obtain a triumph for personal or political ends. Give the franchise without the ballot to every rated householder, and the practical effect would be to transfer the representation of the largest towns and constituencies in the empire to some half-dozen or dozen of the most extensive employers of labour. The political serfdom of the towns would be as complete as that of the counties, and the chances of redemption from such a slavery more hopeless than the existing state of things. With the ballot, an extension of the franchise would inevitably follow; but if the franchise is conferred without the protection of secret voting, the influence of property would acquire a fearful predominance, and landowners, merchants, manufacturers, and mill-owners would virtually count for the same power in the state as the slaveowners of America do in the Republican Congress."

Spirit of the Press.

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAM-SHIP.—Whoever wants to feed this natural passion for size in the primitive way, and to see a true giant in its own line, must visit the bank of the Thames at Millwall. But before he goes we recommend him, unless he is very well versed in the Book of Genesis, to turn to the 6th chapter, and refresh his memory as to the dimensions of Noah's Ark and the "fashion" of its making: "The length of the Ark shall be 300 cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it 30 cubits." So, reckoning the cubit at a foot and a half, we have a ship 450 feet long, 75 feet broad, and 45 feet high. While the visitor is collecting data as to ships, sacred and profane, he may turn out Marlborough in *The Navy List*, and there he will see that the largest line-of-battle ship in the British Navy is exactly 4,000 tons burden. And now let him get on board a Greenwich steamer and be steamed through the picturesque Pool to Millwall. Just opposite Deptford he will be aware of something pre-Adamitic wallowing in the mud of the Isle of Dogs—a stranded saurian ship, to which even Noah's Ark must yield precedence, and to which all the *Marlboroughs*, and *Wellingtons*, and *Merrimacs*, and *Niagaras* in the world are mere cockboats. An iron hull of the burden of 23,000 tons, nearly 700 feet long, and 60 high, will meet his eye—the hull of Mr. Scott Russell's Great Eastern steamship. We must give a few more figures for every figure is a monster, and worth looking at separately. One is a figure of 30,000,—the number of the iron plates which compose the enormous erection, each weighing the third of a ton, and each fastened by 100 rivets. The ship will accommodate 4,000 passengers, 800 of whom are first-class. On an emergency she could carry 10,000 troops. She will contain ten boilers, and 100 furnaces. The cylinder of every engine will be six feet in diameter, and will weigh five times as much as the great bell of St. Paul's. The screw propeller will be twenty-four feet in diameter, and the diameter of the paddle-wheels will be fifty-six feet, or considerably larger than the circus at Astley's. The principal suite of saloons will be 400 feet in length, and a promenade round the deck will afford a walk of more than a quarter of a mile. This monster ship will combine steam power in both shapes, screw and paddle, with sailing power. She will carry 11,000 tons of coal, she will be lighted by gas made on board, and the electric light will flicker like St. Elmo's fire at night from her masthead. She will spread 6,500 yards of canvas, and her speed is computed at fifteen knots or eighteen miles an hour—a rate which will perform the voyage to India by the Cape, and to Australia, in little more than a month. Who would not wish to be the captain of this gallant ship? . . . The result of this great experiment in ship-building, if it answers, of which there is little or no doubt, will be a consolidation of the British Empire such as we have not yet seen. Half of the space which separates the various sections of it from the mother country and from each other will be annihilated. Our colonies will be brought comparatively close to us, and, what is almost of as much importance as the actual vicinity gained, they will be more than twice as near to us in imagination. The difference between a month's voyage and two or three months is all the difference to the imagination. We think of a place as within reach, and within a home distance, if it is only "a month off." The whole empire is thus brought into a home compass, and obtains the addition of strength which so much greater union gives. We shall find ourselves paying visits to and receiving visits from India and Australia. Our friends will come over for the summer with return tickets, and the British Empire will become, in virtual compass, a province.—*Times*.

THE DEPOPULATION OF FRANCE.—The massacres of the first revolution, and the wars of Napoleon, may sufficiently account for the diminution of the French population up to a recent date, but a new cause is now in operation, tending powerfully to the same result. The old frugality of the French has been banished by the present regime, and luxury and extravagance are now the prevailing habits. Saving and hoarding are at an end, and people live up to their means, if not beyond their means. In Paris the immense increase of handsome equipages must strike every eye, and the other signs of enlarged ex-

penditure are abundant. Women, who play so prominent and important a part in the affairs of France, have of course taken the lead in this new fashion of extravagance, and many of them do not think it unreasonable to devote a third of their husbands' income to their own toilettes. And this is not confined to Paris; it runs through the whole country, and every provincial town is a Paris in miniature in the features of a new luxury and extravagance. And the freer indulgence in every sort of enjoyment is concurrent with an universal augmented cost of living. A French authority, who has written on the subject of the high house-rents of Paris, attributes that enhancement not to the demolition of old buildings, but to the new habits of expense which have sprung up within the last few years. And if this be the fact in Paris, it will also account for the advance of prices throughout the provinces. The subdivision of property, whatever may be its merits in other respects, lends its aid to the general propensity to extravagance. A young man, a younger brother, gets his little share of property, and launches at once into the pleasure it may place within his reach. He goes up to Paris with a few hundred or thousand francs, and spends his capital as if it were an income. He is asked after by some one who has met him in better days, and the stereotyped answer is, He has disappeared. There are *oubliettes* in society for these prodigals. Some find their way to Africa, where they carry muskets; some to the jail; some to the bottom of the Seine. None recover by industry the footing lost by extravagance. Families do not generally run the road to ruin so fast. They follow the fashion of expense by living fully up to their incomes, and the husband endeavours to extend the means of enjoyment by a little gambling, under the commercial name of speculation. One prudence only is observable, and that is in avoiding the charges incidental to a number of children. The saying so common in England, "where Heaven sends mouths it sends meat," is unknown in France, and the number of mouths to be fed is adjusted strictly to the means of feeding them. A husband and wife have one or two children, or none at all, as *The Times* observes, according to their ideas of what they can afford. Of course, then, in proportion to the enlarged expenditure for objects of luxury and show is the circumscribed space for the nursery. The stables cut into it, the coach-house cuts into it, above all, Madame's toilette. Where you would see with English habits half-a-dozen healthy boys and girls walking with their parents, you see instead, in the Bois de Boulogne, a fine lady in a handsome open carriage. The horses, the coachman, the footman, are in lieu of the children. Everything cannot be afforded. A choice must be made, and we see what it is. The preferred issue of the French couple are their own favourite pleasures, dress, equipages, good living, gambling. Children would narrow the means for these enjoyments, or leave for them no means whatever; therefore children are not born to curtail their parents' pleasures. And the want of them is not felt where all is given to the gratification of vanity and the senses. The drawing-room, the dining-room, the promenade, and the theatre, fill every moment and satisfy every wish; or it is only when these things stale and pall that a desire arises for the new plaything of a boy or a girl. Of course there are exceptions to these habits, and here and there will be found families with domestic enjoyments, but the number of them has been much diminished by the order or disorder of extravagance so countenanced and encouraged by the present dynasty. The evil is not confined to the wealthy classes, it descends through all classes with the modification of circumstances. The shopkeeper and his wife, the artisan and his wife, are all for the vanities and enjoyments within their reach, as much as the millionaire and his wife. The occupation for the thoughts which politics once provided being gone, the general pursuit now is pleasure, and the means of obtaining it by hook or by crook, generally on the miry field of the Bourse. In such a state of things there must be a tendency to every sort of degeneracy, moral and physical, and we may expect to see the French nation, under the sway of its present intensely selfish vices, dwindling more than under the guillotine of the Terrorists, or the desolating wars of the First Napoleon. Her declining population is the reproachful record against her.—*Examiner*.

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH PARTY.—The part taken by the Evangelical prelates and by the immense majority of their partisans in regard to the affray at Canton, is the first great departure of these religionists from the line of practical conduct which they have hitherto followed. Our readers need not be afraid that we are going to argue the Chinese question over again. We fully admit that the popular view of it is one with which it is quite possible to sympathise. We can quite understand the feeling which tells an Englishman that the most delicate points of law ought always to be carried through with a high hand when a Briton and a foreigner are concerned—which declines to admit that, if the English disputant makes a mistake, his Chinese opponent has any business to take advantage of the slip—and which insists that a remote insult to English dignity, inflicted by a "perplexed barbarian" functionary, is only half avenged by the destruction of the larger part of a great city, the sacrifice of some thousand lives, and the dissolution, through several vast provinces, of the law and social order which were only just recovering from the shock of a terrible rebellion. This is the vein of sentiment which ordinarily translates itself into the roar of the British lion. We have no difficulty in comprehending it, any more than we have a difficulty in understanding the indignant

ejaculation of the West Indians, thirty or forty years ago, that "things had come to a pretty pass," when a man mightn't do what he would with his lawful property. But we do say that the fathers of Evangelicalism would have suffered themselves to be burnt alive rather than allow such arguments to issue in acts. If the whole tenor of men's thoughts, words, writings, and public and private conduct, can give a clue to the course which they would have pursued on a particular question, the party which put down slavery and the slave trade would have received with a fierce and indignant scorn the reasoning which the pretended heirs of their opinions and policy have been parading over England. *The Record* calls attention, week after week, to the fact that the Chinese are wicked heathens. Why, what were the miserable fetish-worshippers for whom Wilberforce and Buxton consumed the flower of their lives and strength in rescuing from the cruelty of professed Christians? Surely Buddha is every bit as respectable a divinity as Mumbo Jumbo; and a Chinese who understands the art of money-making almost as well as a Quaker, may more justly be called a man and a brother than a savage so utterly debased that he would take centuries of cultivation before he could learn to create a fortune by banking, brewing, or bill-broking. . . . Whether it is disgraceful or not that the principles of Evangelical philanthropy should be sacrificed, it is deeply and blackly shameful that they should be sold. A crueller wound was never dealt to religious profession than when the birthright derived from Wilberforce and his compeers was surrendered for a mere mess of episcopal pottage. Three bishoprics and a deanery purchased the unreserved adhesion of this great religious confederacy to a case which looks quite as doubtful on the Blue-book as on the Bible, and which worldly, carnal, and unregenerate reason has the greatest difficulty in swallowing. Votes in Parliament, voices at the hustings, suffrages at the polling-booth, were transferred to the dispenser of patronage with a cynical readiness which has not been seen among politicians since the days of Walpole and the Pelhams.—*Saturday Review*.

THE GENERAL ORDER RESPECTING STAFF OFFICERS.—At the suggestion of the Government, the Duke of Cambridge has issued this General Order respecting the acquirements which will be considered necessary before appointment to places on the Staff. One of the distinctions most frequently urged, lately, by General officers, who could not deny the nepotism and favour which distinguished their appointments, has been that the personal Staff of a General requires no military qualities, and that, one man being as good as another, a Commander of the Forces or a General of Division might legitimately choose his Aides-de-Camp among his sons, and sons-in-law, his nephews, and his cousins. How little the Government and the Horse Guards are inclined, on mature reflection, and after due examination of foreign systems, to acquiesce in this notion may be learnt from the first paragraphs of the Order, which relate to Aides-de-Camp. To prevent for the future deficiencies which we must suppose to have been observed, the Aide-de-Camp will be required to write a distinct and legible hand and compose English correctly, to have a good colloquial knowledge of one foreign language, to be able to sketch country, to know the use of the pocket sextant, to have a thorough knowledge of regimental duty and tactics, and field movements on an extended scale, to understand field fortification, both as regards construction and correct description on reconnaissance. It will hardly be doubted that these acquirements are about the least with which an officer filling the responsible position of Aide-de-Camp ought to be furnished. To give orders verbally, to enter into explanations, to answer questions, to take back to the Commander the result of an interview or a reconnaissance, certainly require some little strategic knowledge, and we cannot but think that the country may require from all whom it employs so necessary an acquaintance with the elements of the military art. Deputy-Assistant-Adjutants-General and Deputy-Assistant-Quartermasters-General will be required to have a knowledge of sketching and plotting, trigonometry, geometry, and logarithms; to write, read, and speak at least one foreign language; to judge of ground and its proper occupation by all arms; to have a perfect knowledge of castrametation and the principles of permanent fortification; to be thoroughly acquainted with geography and military history, especially as relates to the campaigns of ancient and modern Commanders. Assistant-Adjutant and Assistant-Quartermasters-General will have in addition to the foregoing, to show an acquaintance with the elements of mechanics, hydrostatics, and geology; the construction of military bridges, dams, &c., the principles of strategy, and statistics of the army. Such are the acquirements deemed necessary for an appointment on the Staff. They are certainly of no great magnitude, and when we consider what sort of things pass examinations are, and how much easiness of temper in the examiners, and a wish not to injure a young man's prospects, lead to the acceptance of any answers which are not manifestly indicative of gross ignorance, we may well imagine that the aspirants to Staff appointments will have no difficulty in cramming a sufficient amount of technical knowledge to enable them to qualify for a nomination. We are therefore glad to hear that this order is only preparatory to the establishment of a College for the instruction of Staff officers on a system which shall insure to the country the services of the best men who may present themselves.—*Times*.

The site of the late Fleet Prison has been notified to be let on building leases.

THE MANCHESTER ART-TREASURES EXHIBITION.

The interior preparations of the great building in which the unsurpassed art treasures of the empire will be contained are rapidly approaching completion. The building itself, in form a parallelogram, upwards of 700 feet in length, 200 in width, and covering some three acres of ground, is erected at Old Trafford, a distance of some two miles from the Manchester Exchange, and exhibits an appearance which, if without pretensions to high architectural beauty of design, is still effective. The great eastern facade, built of white and red bricks, supports three semicircular arches, the central one being of glass and iron, the other two of corrugated iron, glazed merely along the central section of the roof. "On entering the building from this end," says a letter from Manchester, "the harmonious and really beautiful colouring of the interior must be even more apparent than the great area of the hall. The semicircular ribs of the roof of the nave are ornamented with scrolls of Vitruvian and Grecian character, in crimson and white, and the face is relieved with gold and light bronze. The panels between the ribs are of a pale aerial blue, of the same tint as a clear sky, seen through the glazed portion in the centre. Looking along the roof from either end of the hall, the coloured lines fade into a beautiful blending at the other extremity, especially when the sunlight plays upon them. The nave is divided from the aisles by coupled columns of light bronze, relieved with gold." Along the nave the sculpture and general museum of art will be arranged. The gallery of British portraits will cover the walls of the aisles, while the north and south naves will be respectively filled by modern and ancient paintings.

The works of art have nearly all arrived, and are being rapidly arranged in their respective departments. Every preliminary, it is said, will be concluded by the 5th of May, when the ceremony of opening the exhibition is fixed to take place. Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, will be present. In the evening there is to be a concert at the Free Trade Hall, and on the following day the statue of the Queen, in Peel-park, will be inaugurated. The statue has been erected in commemoration of her Majesty's visit in 1851, when 70,000 Sunday-school children were present, the money being chiefly contributed by the schools themselves. His Royal Highness is also to visit the Peel-park Library and Museum, and the Exhibition of Works by Local Artists, in Peel-park, which is to be opened before the close of the present month.

The collection of ancient pictures, some 900 in number, to be exhibited in the south gallery, has been placed under the charge of Mr. Scharf, jun., who has adopted a novel plan in its arrangement. He has proceeded upon the broad principle of devoting one entire wall to the works of the Italian and Spanish masters, and the other to the productions of Germany, Flanders, England, and all countries foreign to Spain and Italy. But that is not all. The pictures on both sides of the gallery are arranged in chronological order; so that the works of each master of Italy or Spain are placed opposite those of a painter belonging to some other country who lived in the same period. Angelico da Fiesolo, for example, is opposed to John Van Eyck, Rubens to Guido, and Vandyke to Velasquez. The lesser divisions of schools, which are those of Tuscany, Siena, Naples, Umbria, Cologne, Flanders, Saxony, and Nuremberg, are marked by being kept in distinct groups, and arranged for the most part in parallel lines one over the other. With a few exceptions, the pictures exhibited are those of masters who flourished between the years 1400 and 1700, a period of three centuries. The latest painting in this gallery almost corresponds in point of date with the commencement of the modern English school, and consequently no place is given here to the productions of Hudson, Hogarth, Thornhill, Richardson, or any of the English masters who lived at the beginning of the eighteenth century. One of the objects aimed at by Mr. Scharf in the formation of the gallery has been to reunite, as far as possible, the scattered fragments of the Orleans, the Solly, and the Rogers collections. He has succeeded in doing so to a great extent, and the visitor will have an opportunity of viewing, re-collected in these galleries, collections which are renowned throughout the world.

The British Portrait Gallery will number some 400 paintings; the Gallery of Modern Masters (A.D. 1700 to the present day) will number about 900 pictures; while the water-colour, photograph, and miniature collections, will be very extensive. The arrangement of these galleries is under the care of Messrs. Creswick and Egg.

The general Museum of Art, besides containing valuable specimens of ornamental art from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day, selected from the richest private collection in the country, also includes the entire Bernal and Soulage collections, and richly and fully illustrates every species of manufacture and decoration in glass, earthenware, marble, wood, ivory, and the precious metals. The glass, gold metal work, majolica, and ivory sections, are especially rich in materials for illustration; while the vast collection of brilliant enamels, rare mosaics, costly jewellery, and masterpieces in bronze and terra cotta, will justly excite the praise and admiration of all beholders. The collection of arms and armour will also form "a prominent and attractive feature" in the exhibition.

The building covers an area of 16,000 square yards, or more than three acres, and is calculated to hold 40,000 visitors without inconvenience. The most

effectual arrangements have been made for ventilation and protection from fire, rain, or damp. It has been constructed under the superintendence of Mr. W. Dredge, C.E., the contractors and designers of the work being Messrs. C. D. Young and Co., of Edinburgh and London. The cost of the building itself has been probably from 40,000*l.* to 50,000*l.*, and the expenses of the Exhibition are guaranteed by a subscription of 75,000*l.* By means of the junctions which connect the various railways entering Manchester, passengers may be conveyed from every part of the kingdom direct to the entrance of the palace. The value of the paintings and articles of *vertu* about to be exhibited is estimated at 7,000,000*l.* Insurances are to be effected with a number of offices.

In fine, says a recent letter from Manchester, "it would be vain to attempt to enumerate, within reasonable limits, a hundredth part of the objects contained in the general museum. Whole classes even must be left unnoticed. Some idea of the extent, richness, and variety of the collection may be formed when it is stated that upwards of 6,000 articles, each remarkable for the beauty of its material, the brilliancy of its colour, and the exquisite taste of its workmanship or the elegance of its design, are combined in one dazzling mass to astonish and delight the beholder. The labour required to collect and arrange such a vast multitude of treasures must have been immense; and still greater, if possible, must be the liberality and public spirit of those who have consented to part for a season with possessions so rare and valuable."

HANDEL FESTIVAL, CRYSTAL PALACE.

This important undertaking gradually advances, and promises a result, which, if the festival of 1857 is to be simply a preliminary essay, to test the possibility of still greater things in 1859 (the centenary anniversary of Handel's death), will lead to expectations with respect to the latter by no means easy to realise.

During the last few weeks material progress has been made. The metropolitan divisions of the chorus, appointed under the direction of sub-committees for each vocal part—these sub-committees receiving aid and counsel from competent professional advisers—has terminated in the selection of 1,100 picked voices. Each applicant for a place in the chorus, before being admitted, has been tried at the pianoforte, the compass and quality of voices, proficiency at sight-reading, and other essential gifts being registered, so as to guarantee the ultimate choice of the most efficient. The "1,100" have already passed the ordeal of two rehearsals at Exeter Hall, under the superintendence of Mr. Costa, in choruses of *Israel in Egypt* and *The Messiah* respectively; and on Wednesday evening the third oratorio, *Judas Maccabæus*, will be submitted to a similar experiment. The effect produced in the first-mentioned oratorios was pronounced by all present to be more than satisfactory. The provincial branches of the chorus are forming in the principal cities and towns of Great Britain under the guidance of professors and amateurs of acknowledged ability.

The numbers and distribution of the orchestra are already determined on. There will be 76 first violins, 74 second violins, 50 violas, 50 violoncellos, and 50 double-basses (in all 300 stringed instruments); 9 flutes, 9 oboes, 9 clarinets, 9 bassoons, 12 horns, 12 trumpets and cornets, 9 trombones, 3 ophicleides, 9 serpents and bass-horns, 3 drums, and 6 side-drums (90 wind instruments)—a force hitherto unprecedented.

The organ, constructed expressly for the occasion by Messrs. Gray and Davidson, will be one of great power and on an appropriately gigantic scale. The instrument being nearly in a state of completion, the swell and great organs were recently tried in the manufactory; but, as there was not space enough even in the very extensive premises of the makers to put up the pedal organ, it could not be heard on that occasion. What was tested, however, was unanimously approved by the connoisseurs present. The organ will occupy a platform in the Crystal Palace of forty feet wide by twenty-four deep, which will not only afford sufficient room for the pipes to speak, but ample passage between each division, so that any department of the immense harmonious structure can be approached without difficulty and at an instant's notice. The employment of "pneumatic" action will insure immediate response to the touch, and thus materially assist the exertions of the performance. The erection of the organ at the Crystal Palace is to begin on Wednesday morning. The weight of the new instrument will be somewhere about twenty tons, which, as it is to remain a fixture, will demand a platform of the most solid and durable nature.

The orchestra, already completed, occupies a space of 168 feet in width (just 38 feet wider than Exeter Hall), and 90 feet in depth. The seats for the performers are gradually raised, one above another, so that every instrumentalist and vocalist can have a full view of their conductor. The band will be in front, the chorus at the back. The aspect presented by this gigantic superstructure, when crowded from roof to base with singers and players, can hardly fail to be one of the most imposing description. The whole is contrived on the most approved principles for the insuring strength and resistance. The beams of timber, screwed and bolted together (there are no nails), with their stage and struts and bearings, present the appearance of a complete forest of wood-work. The two upper rows, allotted to the instrumental department of the orchestra, will be assigned to the double-basses, &c. Between these and the seats intended for the chorus there is a broad avenue

for passage to and fro. In short the accommodation is so judiciously arranged that every singer and player will be thoroughly at ease, and thus better able to give to the *ensemble* the benefit of his talents, under favourable and comfortable circumstances. A photograph of the orchestra, by Messrs. Negretti, is on view, and affords a capital notion of its appearance and proportions.—*Times*.

MUSICAL AND LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Hullah varied his oratorio performances at St. Martin's Hall by giving, last Wednesday, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, and Mendelssohn's first *Walpurgis Night*. The performance was good in every respect, and the contrast between the light and airy music of Handel's cantata, with the more complex harmonies of his great modern rival, was highly appreciated by a very crowded audience. In *Acis and Galatea*, the part of *Acis* was sustained by Mr. Sims Reeves; *Galatea* by Miss Banks, a rising young singer, who holds a prominent position at Mr. Hullah's concerts; and *Polypheus* by Mr. Thomas. In the *Walpurgis Night* the solo singers were Miss Palmer, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Montem Smith. In both pieces the choruses were sung with great precision, clearness, and effect. The success of Wednesday would warrant a repetition. Two things are desired to make Mr. Hullah's concerts more acceptable—the suppression of the encore clamour, and softer orchestral accompaniments to the solos. The next performance will be Mozart's *Requiem*, and Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, on the 21st of May.

The performance of *Judas Maccabæus* by the Sacred Harmonic Society is distinguished by having been perhaps the most effective rendering of that martial oratorio ever given within the walls of Exeter Hall; for the solo attractions of the occasion—Madame Novello, Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Thomas, uniting their forces; and for the presence of the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, and suite. From the almost irreproachable style in which the most magnificent and stupendous of the choruses—"Disdainful of danger," "Hear us, O Lord" (Part I.); "Fallen is the foe" one of the choral masterpieces of Handel), "We hear! we hear!" and "We never will bow down" (Part II.); and, last not least, the "Hallelujah" (Part III.)—were delivered, says *The Times*, it seemed as if Mr. Costa had either been endowed with a magic wand that enabled him (hopeless task heretofore) to make the whole of the "600" not only sing, but sing correctly, or, which we have reason to believe still more difficult, to persuade all those incapable of singing in time and tune to stay away from the concert. The next oratorio—announced for Wednesday, May 6—is Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

M. Jullien has played many parts in his time. In his character as a conductor he took the first stand in catering for the public, in respect to polkas, quadrilles, and other light music; then he advanced, with equal success, to the more solid harmonies of Mendelssohn, Haydn, and Beethoven, and now he enters the field to dispute the honours of oratorio performances. Ere long he proposes to inaugurate the season at the Surrey Music Hall, by a performance of *Elijah*. The band of Les Guides is also to be brought over to give three weeks assistance.

The appearance of a new tenor, Signor Antonio Giuglini, at Her Majesty's Theatre is an event worthy of passing note. His appearance on the lyrical stage last week was a signal success. "He has," says *The Examiner*, "taste, feeling, power as an actor, and a perfect voice. No success could have been less spurious than his. The crowded audience was critical, the opera is weak and dull; at the end of the first act, the applause expressed simply a mild content. As the opera proceeded the range of the new singer's powers was developed, and when in the last act 'Spirto gentil' was sung with a purity of voice and a delicacy of expression never to be surpassed, the audience surrendered at discretion. One of the best singers in Europe was before them, and no room was left for any doubt about the fact." It appears that to-morrow evening Mlle. Piccolomini is to appear in *La Traviata*—an opera, which it was thought would have been suppressed after the severe criticisms last season upon its immoral construction. Mr. Lumley, however, backed, we suppose, by the fashionable world, bids defiance to *The Times*, and to public decency.

On Friday morning, in the theatre of the Marylebone Institution, Professor A. J. Scott, Principal of Owens' College, Manchester, delivered before a numerous audience, the first of two lectures on the Age of Dante. "The lecture," says *The Daily News*, "was rewarded with the highest possible compliment—the close attention of a gratified audience, in which we recognised a large proportion of hearers themselves eminent in literature or the learned professions. His exposition is clear, his address direct and free, and his lectures lose nothing in accuracy by being exempted from the trammels of written composition." The second and concluding lecture was to be delivered yesterday, and devoted to the historical and literary illustration of the principles laid down in the first.

"Ye who write for this busy age," says a late writer, "speak quick; use short sentences; never stop the reader with a long or ambiguous word; but let the stream of thought flow right on, and men will drink it like water."

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

There have been some scattered movements throughout the country in favour of Parliamentary reform. At a meeting held in Dundee it was resolved that an association should be founded to obtain "a large extension of the suffrage"—"manhood suffrage" being understood; short Parliaments, electoral districts, and vote by ballot. Dundee is aggrieved that its population of 90,000 has only one representative, while a score of English boroughs with an aggregate population of 100,000 return thirty-eight members to Parliament.

On the same day, a meeting for a kindred purpose was held in the Town-hall of Hawick. It was unanimous in resolving, that there ought to be "a large and immediate extension of the franchise." But in defining the extension the meeting was divided. One party proposed a five-pound franchise for burghs and counties; a second stood out for "manhood suffrage;" they would not compromise, and they carried their point by a small majority. A committee was appointed to carry out the resolution.

The Liberals of Tavistock entertained their members, Mr. George Byng and Sir John Trelawny, on Wednesday. Mr. Byng looked with confidence to the success of the "good old cause."

Lord Palmerston had been twitted with being the "Tory chief of a Radical Cabinet." I trust that his future policy will scatter that taunt to the winds. The country does not wish for innovation, or the subversion of any old-established institutions; but they will ask, and justly ask, that any future measures, or any future changes, may keep pace with the growing intelligence and educational requirements of the age.

Mr. Byng hoped that with renewed strength and health Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden might be restored to their proper places in Parliament. Sir John Trelawny advocated greater publicity in diplomacy, self-government, Parliamentary reform, the ballot, and economy.

My principles are those of civil and religious liberty; my motto is "Peace, retrenchment, and reform." Peace, so long as it can be maintained with credit to a nation whose voice is entitled to be heard among the people of the world, and whose example is a great international instruction; retrenchment, so far as it is compatible with the due efficiency of all our public departments; and reform without revolution.

On the subject of Church-rates, he said:—

When I retired from Parliament the question of Church-rates had made some progress in the minds of the people. A large mass of evidence had been collected, and I believe that every one who read that evidence must have come to the conclusion that something should be done. And yet five long years have passed since then, and nothing has yet been done for the settlement of the question. (Hear, hear.) I trust that in the new House the question will be taken up, and that it will be acted upon with effect. (Applause.) I have been applied to by an association in London to take up the measure in Parliament which was in the hands of Sir William Clay in the last session, and I hope, if nothing should occur to prevent it, I shall be able to accept the proposal. (Loud applause.)

Sir John shared with Sir James Graham's alarm at the "army of inspectors" and similar officers scattered all over the country. He was afraid we were becoming too much addicted to centralisation, a system which vastly increased the power of the minister by means of patronage, and at the same time weakened the habit of self-government in the people.

Lord Robert Cecil met his constituents at Stamford, on Wednesday, and addressed them on the duty of extending education. Among the political predictions hazarded during the recent election, had been that of an organic change in the representation. Now, that change will not be safe unless the people are educated to meet it.

Everybody must have read the extraordinary details of a belief in witchcraft, furnished by magistrates from different parts of the country, which show that that most ludicrous of all superstitions still clings with unyielding tenacity to our rural population. Most of these people are strict believers in witchcraft. They believe that whenever a cow falls ill or a pig dies some old woman ought to be tried for it; and that if anybody is out late at night they have been carried off by some spiteful neighbour, and whirled a hundred miles through the air. The very people who believe these things would be the people who, by the organic changes alluded to, would be intrusted with the choice of their representatives in Parliament. Now, remember what the choice of a representative means. It means the choice of the person who makes the laws, who imposes the taxes, and who devises measures for the security of our lives and property. Now, if we wish to extend the franchise to the people in question, it will be absolutely madness to do so unless the educated classes make "a strong pull and a pull altogether" to educate them up to the duties which they will have to perform.

The question may be viewed in other lights. We are venturing on one of the greatest changes ever attempted—the abolition of transportation. Now, ignorance is one great source of crime. A taste for knowledge will keep men in the long evenings from the public-house, and habits of drunkenness contracted during those long evenings lead to frightful crimes. Then education is part of the great scheme of evangelisation.

There are now around us heathens as degraded as could be found in any nation in the world; and what is a stronger fact still, not only are there such heathens, but he would venture to say there is nowhere in the world that stolid, invincible, insuperable ignorance, which is to be found in the genuine English peasant.

He had travelled among and had intercourse with natives of New Zealand, and marked the difference between them and the English labourer; and, though we are in the habit of speaking of the former as a "poor benighted savage," and pleading for him at our missionary meetings, he is in intellect and in the quickness of

his faculties far superior to our own countrymen. Therefore, he thought, we ought to give to this matter of education our most earnest attention.

The Conservative Members for West Suffolk, Mr. Harry Spencer Waddington and Captain P. Bennet, were entertained at dinner by their constituents on Wednesday, at the Town-hall, Bury St. Edmund's. The most noticeable speech after dinner was made by Sir Robert Buxton, of Shadwell Court; a gentleman of great landed estate, and a probable aspirant to Parliamentary honours. Sir Robert deprecated a sweeping Reform Bill, as likely, by degrading the suffrage into the hands of the ignorant and unlettered, to increase unduly the burdens of the agricultural interest, and to establish the worst of all tyrannies, that of a democracy. He proposed as a toast the Conservative electors of the division; and Mr. Dobito, in replying, expressed his opinion that Lord Palmerston is as good a Conservative as any gentleman on the other side of the House. This rather unexpected intimation created some sensation; and Mr. Biddell sharply criticised Lord Palmerston, pronouncing his principles incomprehensible, and his policy disingenuous, and in some respects despotism.

At a weekly meeting of the friends of reform in Dudley, the following resolution was adopted:—"This meeting, believing in the absolute necessity of the union of all classes of reformers at the present time, would earnestly call upon the leading reformers of both the middle and working classes, to arrange a conference at which may be discussed and drawn up a programme of reform, around which the country would rally, so that such an agitation for reform may be inaugurated that will secure a real and satisfactory Reform Bill for this country."

UNSUCCESSFUL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES AND THE REFORM QUESTION.

A public meeting of the working men of London was held on Monday evening at the Cowper-street School-room, City-road, "to express regret and sympathy with the unsuccessful parliamentary candidates at Manchester, Huddersfield, Rochdale, and Oldham, and to take the sense of the working men of London as to what reforms ought to be demanded from the new Parliament." The room—an immense one—was crowded. There could not have been less than from 800 to 1,000 persons, nearly all of whom belonged to the operative classes.

The chair was taken by Mr. S. LUCAS, who opened the proceedings with an explanatory speech, in which he highly eulogised the free trade and peace policy of Messrs. Cobden and Bright.

Mr. WILES, on rising to move the first resolution, said he regretted the exclusion of Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and others, because it showed the low and enslaved state of the constituency of England. ("No, no," and cheers.) He moved the following resolution, viz.:—

That this meeting views with regret the exclusion from Parliament of Messrs. Cobden, Bright, Gibson, Miall, and Fox, at a time when they laboured successfully in checking dictatorial power and promoting beneficial reforms in church and state, advancing popular education, substituting international arbitration for war, and an open intercourse between all the nations, instead of secret diplomacy, reducing the burthens of taxation, extending free trade, and establishing amicable relations with all the peoples of the earth; and this meeting thankfully acknowledges the great services these eminent men rendered to the Commonwealth, and desire to see them speedily placed in positions of public usefulness, for which their superior talents and moral worth peculiarly fit them.

If the people of England all possessed the franchise, there was no place in the country where such men would be rejected. Mr. Cobden had made the aristocracy succumb to the trade of England. He had enabled the people to procure bread cheap. (Laughter and a voice, "sevenpence a loaf.") The gentleman who had made that exclamation forgot that the price of bread during the French war was twice what it had been recently. (Hear, hear.) If Mr. Cobden had done nothing else, he had immortalised his name by securing the abolition of the corn laws. (Cheers.) Mr. Bright, they all knew, was the able coadjutor of Mr. Cobden; as to his peace views, he was known to have always held them. Mr. Gibson was the great instrument of obtaining the repeal of the newspaper stamp; Mr. Miall was the uncompromising advocate of religious liberty; and as to Mr. Fox, there was no man more worthy to represent the working classes. (Cheers.) He had never pandered to them, but had always advocated their rights and interests. As regarded the representation, it was well-known that there were in this country about 6,000,000 adult males, and that of these only 1,000,000 had the franchise. This state of things ought to be done away with, and the remedy for the evil included the establishment of the ballot. (Cheers.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, in seconding the resolution, said, he feared that Lord Palmerston, instead of depending upon an honest course of policy for the government of the country, was depending upon the army; and if that was the case he would say, perish Lord Palmerston! (Cheers.)

Mr. LAURIE proposed that the name of Sir Joshua Walmsley should be included in the resolution. This was agreed to.

Mr. DICKEN trusted that when the Reform Bill was brought forward, the working men would not suffer themselves to be hoodwinked. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) He would move as an amendment that they should have the Charter whole and entire, and that they should have nothing short of it. ("Hear, hear," cheers, and groans.) They should have nothing to do with these middle-class gentlemen who had got leave to ventilate themselves out of Parliament. ("Hear, hear," and groans.)

A person in the body of the meeting asked what had Cobden and Bright done for the working men,

and declared that their expulsion from Parliament was a just retribution for their opposition to measures which were for the benefit of the working classes. He moved an amendment to that effect.

Mr. HAYNES denounced the amendment as a device of the enemies of the people. Cobden and Bright had ever been their friends, and would always be true to them. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. BRONTERRE O'BRIEN said he did not regret the defeat of Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, and the other gentlemen, as they could do no good in the House as it was constituted; and he now trusted they would head a party which would compel Parliament to pass just measures. (Cheers.) They would teach Mr. Cobden that night that if he would have their support he should not be the advocate of bit-by-bit reform. (Cheers.) On the China question he and his friends were altogether in the right, and he (Mr. O'Brien) deplored that they should have been defeated when doing good. (Hear, hear.) While Mr. Cobden had done things of which he did not approve, he had done much for which the country stood indebted to him—(cheers)—and he would not divide the meeting by supporting the amendment.

The person who had spoken in the body of the meeting explained that his amendment applied only to Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Gibson. On a show of hands, the resolution was declared to have been carried, and the amendment was negatived.

The other amendment as to the Charter was withdrawn, in order that the meeting might consider the question which it involved at a subsequent stage of the proceedings.

Mr. INGRAM LOCKHART enlarged on the present defective state of the representation, and the injustice which it inflicted on the working classes, and concluded by moving the following resolution:—

That this meeting is of opinion that any measure of reform in the representation of the people, to satisfy the country at large, should at least contain—(1) manhood suffrage; (2) a more equal distribution of electors to the population; (3) no property qualification for members of Parliament; (4) vote by ballot; (5) triennial Parliaments.

Mr. BRONTERRE O'BRIEN supported the motion, claiming, at the same time, his right to support the Charter, and even to go beyond the Charter. (Cheers.)

Mr. BLIGH, amidst great confusion, moved an addition to the resolution in favour of annual parliaments and payment of members, and declared that nothing would satisfy him but the whole Charter. Mr. WELLS seconded the motion. Mr. HURST supported the original motion, and eulogised Messrs. Cobden and Bright for their public services. The resolution, with the addendum, was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. J. P. ADAMS moved a resolution declaring it to be the opinion of the meeting that one of the most necessary reforms needed by the country was the adoption of a system of National Secular Education, to be defrayed by national money, amounting to twelve millions and a half, which was now absorbed by the clergy, who, instead of imparting knowledge, persisted in perpetuating a system which left the people ignorant, helpless, and superstitious.

Mr. HEALY seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman.

REFORMATORY INSTITUTES.

THE HOME-IN-THE-EAST REFORMATORY.—The annual meeting of the Home-in-the-East Reformatory was held last week; the Rev. G. T. Driffield in the chair. The boys admitted into this institution are selected from the worst class who live in the streets. Some have neither father nor mother, many only one parent, others step-parents; a large number were young thieves. In thirty-seven cases the parents subscribed sums varying from seven shillings to one shilling per week on behalf of the boys. Out of sixty-five boys who had during fifteen months left the Home, thirty-seven had departed under circumstances not encouraging; but the remainder had gone out into the world improved and provided for either at home or in the colonies. The report showed that the institution is in debt somewhat; so that subscriptions will be welcome.

REFUGE FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—On Thursday a meeting of the friends and supporters of this institution was held in the schoolroom, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, on the departure of thirteen boys, who were leaving the institution for Canada. In the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Rev. E. Bayley took the chair, and addressed some suitable words to the boys, principally on their religious duties. While Mr. Bayley was speaking, the Earl of Shaftesbury arrived and took the chair amidst great applause. His lordship then addressed the intending emigrants, observing, in the course of his remarks—A gentleman who had recently arrived from Canada had told him (without regard to that institution) that nobody could tell the amount of good the ragged schools had done to Canada in sending these boys out. He had had five in his employ and more civil, useful lads he never had in his service. They must remember that if they misbehaved themselves when they reached the colony, they would be ten times more wicked than they could be here; for they would do an injury to those poor ragged boys they might leave in this country wanting the assistance the institution was now affording them. They must always bear in mind that they had a duty to perform, and were individually responsible for their own acts; and with this feeling upon them there was no doubt they might rise to a high position in the country to which they were going, and that God would bless their ex-

erions. Mr. Gent, at some length, communicated to the boys practical instructions as to the course of proceeding on their journey to Liverpool, and during their passage from that port to Toronto, their port of destination. Impressive and appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Thorold, Mr. Ware, and Mr. Williams (the Honorary Secretary), who intimated that he had caused to be prepared a medal for each of the boys, and that these marks of honour only awaited the inscription of each boy's name for presentation. The addresses were listened to with breathless attention by those to whom they were addressed; and the interesting proceedings closed with prayer.

EAST LONDON RAGGED SCHOOL SHOE BLACK SOCIETY'S REFUGE.—On Thursday evening a *soirée* in aid of the funds of the East London Ragged School Shoe Black Society's Refuge took place in the large schoolroom, St. Mary-street, Whitechapel-road. There were present the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Mr. Sheriff Mechi, Mr. Alderman Rose, a party from the royal family of Oude, Acton Smee Ayrton, Esq., M.P. for the Tower Hamlets, and a number of ladies and gentlemen residing in the district. The interior of the schoolroom was decorated with banners, flags, evergreens, paintings, and various devices, and brilliantly illuminated with gas. The entertainments consisted of a vocal and instrumental concert, supported by Miss Stabbach, Miss Banks, Miss Eyles, Mr. George Tedder, Mr. W. Winn, and Mr. A. Carder, musical conductor and pianist; recitations by Mr. Rymer; telescopic and microscopic lectures by the Rev. W. W. Champneys, the rector, and Dr. Tripe, &c. The rector presided on the occasion, but, on the arrival of the Lord Mayor, the latter officiated, when the respected rector (Rev. W. W. Champneys) addressed the meeting at some length, enumerating the causes which led to the production of "the outcast boy," amongst which he mentioned drunken parents, stepmothers, fathers who forsake their families, and the death of both parents. The Lord Mayor thanked the meeting for the very kind reception that he and the Lady Mayoress had received. He entirely corroborated every word which the rector had spoken; his own daily experience led him to the same conclusions. He wished the brigade to be brought up to him, and nearly fifty healthy and clean-looking boys came up, when his lordship spoke a few kind and judicious words to them. The Lady Mayoress then presented each boy with two pieces of newly-coined silver, as an encouragement to them to go on and persevere. Alderman Rose seconded the remarks of the Lord Mayor, and added his own gift of 5*l.* to his lordship's generous gift of 10*l.* The Lord Mayor also placed 10*l.* at the disposal of the Rev. W. W. Champneys, towards enabling the committee to send out two boys to Canada in the next year. About 1,100 persons were present.

MORE WITCHCRAFT.

A "Surrey Magistrate" writes to *The Times* that belief in the black art is more common than is supposed, and sends the following sample of what occurred lately in his own parish:—

A labourer living in L—L— called upon me and said, that I had better look after the rough music they were giving M—, or some mischief would come of it.

I inquired, "What is it all about?"—"Oh, you had better see into it yourself, for I don't like to have anything to do with such things."

I accordingly walked up to M—'s house, and asked him if he had anything to complain of?—"Yes, a pretty deal; and I'll do for some on 'em."

"Don't take the law into your own hands, but trust to me and you shall be protected. But what is it all about?"—"Oh, some nonsense they talks on about E—'s wife."

"What have you been doing to E—'s wife?"—"Why, nothing at all; I hav'n't seen the woman this twelvemonth."

"Have you had any dispute with her husband?"—"Oh, there was a few words about a little job I did for him—mending his dunspit, but that's all right."

"What do they do to you now?"—"Oh, they makes a noise and clatter with bones and cleavers and hammers and all manner, and neither I nor my neighbours can sleep."

"Do you know any of their names?"—"Oh, yes, but what's the use of that? It's E— sets them on."

I returned home and sent for E—, and told him that M— was much annoyed by people making a noise, and that he said that he E— set them on.

"Serve him right too."

"Why?"—"Why? Why, because there he comes every night to my house and whirls my wife out of bed, takes her clean through the window, keeps her till four o'clock in the morning, and then brings her home."

"Ar: you not ashamed, an old man like you, to talk such nonsense?"—"Ah, but he does, though."

"The last time I passed your way you told me your wife was very ill; is she well now?"—"Ay, and so she was very ill, and all on account of that villain M—; but I'll shoot 'un next time he comes."

"You must do no such thing; tell me what he does, and I will see him punished if in the wrong; but if you fire at him and kill him you'll be hanged?"—"Oh, bless you, there's no fear of that; you can't kill them kind of people: they've nine lives, like a cat."

"Do you see him take your wife away?"—"No, bless you, I'm asleep."

"Can't she awake you?"—"No, he flies off so quick with her."

"Had you not better tie her arm to yours, so that she cannot go without awaking you?"—"That's no use with them people."

"Did your wife tell you it is M— who takes her?"—"No, she don't know who it is, and when she comes back, poor thing, she's all in a pucker, like."

"Then what ground have you for saying that M— takes her away?"—"Ah, because that blessed man showed him to me."

"What blessed man?"—"Why, him as cured her after Mr. D—, and Mr. L—, and all the doctors had tried, and I had spent my last shilling on 'em."

"How did he show you?"—"Well, now, I'll tell you. We took a horseshoe and made it red hot, then he shut the shutter, then he put the shoe into some dirty water, and asked me whose face it was I saw in the smoke, and it was M—'s."

"Did you pay this man anything for showing you M—'s face?"—"No; I paid him a pound for curing my wife."

"What is his name?"—"Well, I don't know rightly, but you knows him well enough; I've seen him your way gathering simples."

"Did he ever cure anybody else, and show them who it was that made them ill?"—"Oh, yes, H—'s wife, N—'s shepherd."

"Well, now go home and tell your wife if M— ever takes her out of bed again to come to me directly, and I will see after him."

It may be needless to add that I heard no more of this matter.

I sent, however, for the shepherd's wife, and she told me she had been very ill for a long time, and that she never got better till the blessed man came and showed her M—'s face in the dirty water.

The witch-finder is a simple gatherer for the London market, travelling generally from Y— to D—, and plays upon the credulity of many foolish peasants, as I have told you.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The Queen's recovery has been rapid and satisfactory. She is already so far convalescent that no further bulletins will be issued. The infant Princess is also reported to be healthy and well. Of the venerable Duchess of Gloucester, whose health is very feeble, the last bulletin says that she remains in much the same state. The duchess has latterly been kept as tranquil as possible, but considering her advanced age, and the state of feebleness to which she has been reduced, the condition of her royal highness has excited the apprehensions of the royal family, who are frequent in their inquiries after her health. She is the last survivor of the numerous children of George III.

The Queen and Prince Albert are now the parents of nine children, and have had to mourn the loss of none. The eldest of the royal children, the Princess Royal, is seventeen years of age, the Prince of Wales is sixteen, the Princess Alice fourteen, Prince Alfred thirteen, Princess Helena eleven, Princess Louise nine, Prince Arthur seven, and Prince Leopold four. In all, four sons and five daughters.

The Queen has conferred upon Dr. Loocock, of Hertford-street, Mayfair, her *acchoucheur*, the dignity of a baronet of the United Kingdom.

As soon as ever her Majesty is strong enough to travel, it is recommended by the medical gentlemen in attendance that the Queen should make a short trip to the sea side, so as thoroughly to complete her recovery, and restore her health to its usual vigour in the shortest possible time. For this purpose it is expected, should everything go on as favourably as it has hitherto done, that her Majesty may be enabled to leave town for her marine palace, Osborne, Isle of Wight, the latter end of the first week in May.—*Observer*.

It will interest our lady readers to know that at her *accouchement* her Majesty was under the influence of chloroform, with a few short intermissions, for three hours. The *Medical Times and Gazette* tells the following story in connection with the event:—

It was known on Monday night at the Palace that labour was approaching, yet when the Queen, in her extremity, sent for Dr. Loocock and Dr. Snow, a common cab from the nearest stand was the only vehicle procurable, and a very shaky specimen indeed, first went to Hertford-street for Dr. Loocock, took him to the Palace, and then drove off to Sackville-street for Dr. Snow. The public have a vague idea that Masters of the Horse and Grooms-in-waiting, and Equeries, and Gold Sticks, and Silver Sticks, and a hundred other people about the royal person, must be of some use, but it seems that when they are wanted, No. 2011 from the cab-stand is as necessary for Queen Victoria as Mrs. Saranet, the wife of the Fimlico haberdasher.

The Queen's state yacht, the *Victoria and Albert*, has just been taken into dock at Portsmouth, to be embellished for her Majesty's summer cruise.

Lord John Russell is visiting Earl and Countess Fortescue at Castle Hill.

An application having been made to Lord John Russell, to deliver a lecture at Bradford, his lordship declined, stating that he had found the preparation of a lecture so interfering with his ordinary public business, that he had resolved to decline such applications in future.

It is stated that the Earl of Elgin is to be accompanied in his diplomatic mission to China by his brother, the Honourable Frederick Bruce, by Mr. Oliphant as his private secretary, by Mr. Fitzroy, and by a gentleman to be selected from the Foreign Office.

It is now understood as settled that Mr. Horsman retires from his post as Chief Secretary for Ireland, and is to be succeeded by Mr. R. Bernal Osborne, Secretary to the Admiralty. [It will be recollected that Mr. Horsman expressed some disapprobation of Sir John Bowring's proceedings in China in his election address, which may account for his resignation.]

Colonel Tulloch has been appointed an ordinary member of the civil division of the second class of Knights Commanders of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

The expedition to China is slowly proceeding to its destination. H.M.S. *Transit*, steam troop-ship, re-embarked her troops and stores and sailed for Hong Kong on Wednesday morning. H.M.S. *Himalaya*,

with 900 men of the 90th, sailed on Thursday for Hong Kong. The *Furious*, 16, paddle-frigate, having fitted out for the China station, went out of Portsmouth harbour to Spithead on Saturday, and there awaits sailing orders. Her convoy of gunboats is nearly ready. The *Firm* went out of harbour on Saturday and took in her powder and shell. The *Drake* and *Janus* are ready for sea.

The Court of Military Inquiry into the crimes and recriminations between General Beatson and Colonel Shirley, of the Turkish Contingent, has reported that in its opinion there are no grounds whatever to render it necessary to investigate the charges brought by the former officer against the latter—that what Colonel Shirley did, he did openly and with reasonable cause.

The following circular has been issued to the members of the Liberal party:—

Whitehall, April 15, 1857.

My dear Sir,—As the first business upon the assembling of Parliament will be the election of a Speaker, I take the liberty of informing you that Mr. J. Evelyn Denison will be proposed as a candidate, and I trust that the whole of the Liberal party will attend and concur in his election. May I venture to press upon you the importance of being present on the 30th of this month, on which day the election will take place? I should feel greatly obliged if you would have the kindness to inform me whether I may rely on your presence and support.

Very truly yours,

W. G. HAYTER.

The *Court Journal* fears that the Marquis of Dalhousie's constitution has been too much shaken and undermined for permanent improvement, and says that there now seems little doubt that the country has lost all chance of again having the benefit of the services of one of the ablest of her public servants.

A general order was issued from the Horse Guards last week defining the qualifications which in future will be required from all officers seeking staff appointments. Their possession of the qualifications will be tested by examination. The posts specifically included within the scope of the order are those of aide-de-camp, brigade-major, and the subordinates of the adjutant-general and quartermaster-general's department. The brigade-major and the upper officers must possess a real technical knowledge of military movements, regulations, flying surveys, castrametation, and other profound branches of science that cannot be purchased, and are not necessarily involved in a peerage; including for every staff officer the knowledge of one foreign language and his vernacular grammar! The order is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Henry Dunn, Secretary to the British and Foreign School Society, has retired from his office, and is succeeded by Mr. Wilkes, who for the last ten years has represented the society in the North of England. Mr. Dunn's name has been added to the General Committee.

On Monday the remains of a French exile (M. Rougee) were deposited in the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, the gates of Victoria Park Cemetery having been shut against his mortal remains on the pretext that possibly a disturbance might occur! An immense multitude, estimated at 10,000, accompanied the body to its last resting place, and MM. Pyat, Filandier, Louis Blanc, and others, delivered orations over the grave. At the conclusion of the orations cries of "*Vive la République Démocratique et Sociale*!" resounded through the multitude. The people who had conducted themselves with decorum, then retired peaceably from the burial-ground.

Miscellaneous News.

As much as 21 per cent. has been paid at Lloyd's for insurance on some of the gold in the missing steamer *Oneida*.

According to the last reports there were in London 143,000 vagrants admitted in one year into the casual wards of the workhouses.

The statue of Queen Anne in St. Paul's Churchyard having been mutilated by some miscreant, the gates of the area have been altogether closed to the public.

A coroner's jury have decided that the old farmer who died of eating poisoned mincepie at Collingham was murdered by his nephew Richard Hodson, and Sophia his wife. Strong evidence was brought forward tracing the pie back to the couple under suspicion, and it was further shown that Mrs. Hodson had recently purchased arsenic. The motive is the old one—a desire for the old man's property.

ADULT PRIMARY INSTRUCTION IN NORFOLK.—A meeting was held on Monday, in the parish of Brooke, of the members and friends of three associations which have been at work during the past winter in different parts of this county in the promotion of adult evening classes, the circulation of a simple, wholesome (chiefly illustrated) literature among the cottages, and the delivery of conversational lectures on useful and practical subjects, and of the most familiar kind. All classes are co-operating in this good work, and they appear to be successful.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—By a Parliamentary paper, just issued, it appears that there are in England 35 Reformatory schools, containing in the aggregate 1,454 children. In Scotland there were 20 such schools, training 1,921 children. The Glasgow House of Refuge contains 390 boys; the Edinburgh Ragged Schools are attended by 267 children; and the Philanthropic Farm School at Redhill near Reigate, has 280 inmates. A very large proportion of the children are voluntary attendants; and a majority of the establishments are

INS. BRITISH MUSEUM

capable of accommodating larger numbers than at present.

FATAL EFFECTS OF JUVENILE INTOXICATION.—On Thursday afternoon a boy named Joseph Parry, aged 14, whose father is a sailor at Liverpool, being with four other lads, all much younger than himself, found a bottle of whisky in the station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. They took the bottle to the old churchyard, and, sitting on the gravestones, passed it round until they had emptied it of its contents. They were subsequently found in a state of insensibility, and were removed to their homes. They all recovered except Parry, who died on Saturday morning at 1 o'clock of apoplexy caused by excessive drinking.

NEW READING-ROOM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The present reading-rooms of the British Museum will not be used for the purposes of study after the 30th inst. During the first week in May, when the Museum will be closed as usual, the library of reference will be removed from its present locality to the new reading-room; and, in order to avoid unnecessary interruption while this operation is being carried on, no strangers will be admitted to the libraries for any purpose whatever. On the 8th of May the new reading-room will be thrown open to the public generally, who will be allowed to visit it freely until the 16th, after which day it will be devoted exclusively to the use of the readers.

ITALIAN JOURNAL.—A new literary journal has just been started, entitled *Emporio Italiano*, the organ of the recently-established institution of the same name. It is published in Italian, English, and French, arranged in parallel columns, and is edited by Professor Vera, the well-known author of some thoughtful works on German Philosophy. The design of the *Emporio* is to promote the patronage of Italian Science, Art, Literature, Commerce, and Industry. To a museum filled with specimens of Italian art and industry are to be attached a hall not only for experiments but for musical and dramatic performances, a club-room, a library, a panorama, a cosmorama, a diorama, an amphitheatre for lectures, and a primary school. Politics and religion are excluded from the project. The benefit of the Italian people is the object for which all these various departments are designed.

ACCIDENT TO MR. BALL, M.P.—On Wednesday last, the 8th inst., as Mr. Ball was riding round his farm, about entering into one of the yards, his mare shied, by which Mr. Ball lost his seat, and fell near the gateway into a ditch, where he was nearly covered with mud and water. Fortunately one of the labourers was near the spot, and seeing the mare had broken away he hastened to the place, and rescued his master from his fearful position; for had not assistance been at hand in all probability Mr. Ball's life would have been thus sacrificed. He was taken to the farmhouse, as soon as possible, and conveyed to bed. It was found that the hon. gentleman had sustained severe bruises on his side and arm; providentially, however, no bones were broken. The hon. gentleman was so much improved as to be at his post at the Bedford Level meeting at Ely on Thursday last.

MR. GOUGH ON THE FAILURE OF THE MAINE LAW.—The *Weekly Record*, the organ of the National Temperance League, gives the following extract from a letter written by Mr. Gough, the well-known temperance orator in America. The letter is dated the 23rd ult.—"The cause," writes Mr. Gough, "in this country is in a depressed state. The Maine Law is a dead letter everywhere,—more liquor sold than I ever knew before in Massachusetts, and in other states it is about as bad. . . . Were it not that I feel desirous of labouring with you again I should be inclined to ask for the loan of another year to labour here. I never had so many and so earnest applications for labour, and the field is truly ready, not for the sickle, but for steady persevering tillage; but we shall leave our dear home in July, with the expectation of labouring with you, as far as health and strength will permit, for the next three years. . . . I see that Neal Dow is to be in England. I am glad; you will all like him; he is a noble man and a faithful worker. He can tell better than any other man the state of the Maine Law movement here, and the cause of the present universal failure of the law to produce the desired results."

THE LUNDHILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The operations of emptying the pit are proceeding in a most satisfactory manner. On visiting the works at Lundhill on Friday, there was every evidence that the tedious work of emptying the pit, and which has now occupied nearly a month, was nearly terminated. At twelve o'clock there was between 2ft. and 3ft. of water in the shaft, and the single bucket in use came up little more than half full. The water itself also plainly showed that it had been in contact with the coal, being black and dirty. The escape of large quantities of explosive gas still continues, and the greatest precaution is used to avoid accidents. A good number of first-class colliers have responded to the call for volunteers to assist in bringing out the bodies; so that, once a commencement has been made for that purpose, there is every prospect of its occupying only a short time. The proceedings having now reached that stage in which the recovery of some of the bodies may take place almost any hour, the excitement of the relatives of the deceased and the curiosity of the public have increased so much, that no persons are allowed to go near the works. Three bodies were recovered on Saturday, and the inquest upon them has been commenced.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG FEMALES.—This society has been established nearly twenty years, and its objects are to suppress improper houses, and to save young females under fifteen years

of age from threatened ruin. The friends of the society held their anniversary dinner on Monday at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, which was presided over by Mr. Sheriff Mechi, and was attended by a large number of the supporters of the institution. After partaking of a dinner provided in the usual excellent style of the establishment, and after the customary loyal toasts had been drunk, the chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Society." He observed that the general result of the efforts of the institution had been to rescue many young women from a course of vice and infamy, and to rear them up to become virtuous wives and mothers. Many inmates of the asylum had gone forth into the world thoroughly reformed, well trained for all domestic duties, and educated in a manner calculated to enable them to understand their moral obligations to society. Mr. Talbot, the honorary secretary, read the report of the proceedings of the society, by which it appeared that 59 young females under 15 years of age were at the present time fed, clothed, and educated, and fitted for respectable servitude, in the Asylum at Tottenham; but he lamented to say that numerous applications were continually being made which, for want of funds, the society were obliged to reject. At a subsequent period of the evening the secretary announced the subscriptions to amount to £1,100.

Law, Police, and Assize.

THE ABBE ROUX v. CARDINAL WISEMAN.—The Court of Queen's Bench has granted a rule to show cause why the verdict at the Gloucester Assizes in the case of Roux *versus* Wiseman should not be set aside, on the ground that the verdict was against the evidence, and the damages (500*l.*) excessive. It will be argued that Roux was aware in 1848 that the document lodged with Cardinal Wiseman had been handed over to Mr. Wyse. Lord Campbell observed, in the course of Mr. Roux's argument, that no doubt his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French, as he was paying the debts of his relatives, would, in his benevolence, have discharged the claims of the plaintiff if he believed in the genuineness of the document upon which they rested. He thought the defendant was entitled to a rule on both grounds. Rule granted.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOTS.—The inquiry before the magistrates was resumed on Friday, and after hearing some further evidence, the bench came to the unanimous conclusion that the charge against Mr. Alfred Talbot and Mr. Wm. Pitt should be dismissed. Benjamin Wellings, Robert Westwood, Henry Westwood, John Wood, Geo. Barker, Albert Perrins, John Cook, Sam. Payne, and Benjamin Potter, for rioting at the polling booth, were committed to the assizes. By an arrangement between the prosecuting counsel and the counsel for the defence, it was agreed that the eighteen other persons who were charged with riotous proceedings, and whose cases had not been gone into, should enter into recognisances to answer any charge that may be preferred against them at the next Worcester assizes.

FIRST TRIAL UNDER THE CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.—The Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, granted a rule calling upon the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, Master of the Endowed Grammar School at Ruthven, in Denbighshire, to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against him for the offence of "undue influence" committed by him at the recent election of a member to serve in Parliament for the Denbighshire Boroughs. The offence of "undue influence" was created by the 5th section of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854, which enacted, that "every person who shall, directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any person on his behalf, make use of, or threaten to make use of, any force, violence, or restraint, or inflict, or threaten the infliction, by himself, or by or through any other person, of any injury, damage, harm, or loss, or in any other manner practise intimidation upon or against any person, in order to induce such person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of such person having voted or refrained from voting at any election, &c., shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall also be liable to forfeit the sum of 50*l.* to any person who shall sue for the same, together with full costs of suit." Mr. Barnwell had repeatedly threatened one Treherne, a baker at Ruthven, that he would take away his custom, not only with himself but the church, unless Treherne voted for Mr. Mainwaring in the late election. Treherne voted for Mr. Morris, and Mr. Barnwell fulfilled his threat. This is the first suit under the act.

CABBY AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE.—An action was brought in the Westminster County Court, last week, by a cabman named Berridge, against Sir James Alexander Cockburn, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, to recover the sum of 1*l.* 4*s.* It appeared that the plaintiff's driver was engaged, in the month of May last, by his lordship to convey him from Richmond to Hampton Court and back, when his fare for distance—viz., 10*s.*, was tendered, but plaintiff refused to receive it without an additional 4*s.* for waiting, at 2*s.* an hour, which Mr. Davies contended he was entitled to under the 18th section of the 16th and 17th Vict., c. 35, which says that for waiting the driver of any cab shall charge, and be justified in so doing, 6*d.* for every fifteen minutes. Mr. Davies said he had a letter from his lordship, acknowledging the 10*s.*, but repudiating the additional 4*s.*—Judge: My opinion is, that he would be entitled to sixpence for waiting; but it cannot be recovered before me, only before a magistrate.—The case thus broke down, but a gen-

tleman who represented the Chief Justice said he would give the plaintiff 10*s.*, and the parties retired.

A MILITARY SWINDLER.—The Marlborough-street magistrate has finally committed Lieutenant Ernest Lloyd for trial on several of thirty distinct charges of obtaining goods in exchange for worthless checks. It appears that this misguided young man is the son of Colonel Lloyd, who died at Scutari, and that he himself had served in the Artillery before Sebastopol.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—The affairs of the Royal British Bank again came before the Court of Bankruptcy on Friday, when proofs of debts were received and a dividend declared. Applications were made on behalf of two gentlemen who sought to prove against the bank for certain sums they had deposited. Unfortunately they had been induced to take new shares just before the bank stopped; it was urged that they had been misled by fraudulent statements, and had therefore a right to appear as creditors. One of the parties also claimed to have 500*l.* returned to him, as it had been thus fraudulently obtained for worse than worthless shares. The cases were both adjourned that evidence might be heard. Mr. Linklater gave interesting information on the position of the bank estate; the proofs have amounted to 523,000*l.*, a second dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* is now declared, making 8*s.*; there will be a third dividend soon of 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* There is a hope that 40,000*l.* may be obtained for the coal-mines in Wales; altogether, dividends amounting to 10*s.* or 11*s.* will be certainly paid, and possibly the total will be 12*s.* Beyond this, the shareholders offer 6*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; and an act of Parliament is to be applied for to carry out the arrangement. The dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* was ordered to be paid.

DENISON v. DITCHER.—This case, heard on Monday at the Court of Arches, Doctors' Commons, was an appeal to the Official Principal of the Arches Court of Canterbury, and Judge of the Court of Appeal of the province of Canterbury, against a judgment pronounced at Bath in October last, on the complaint of the Rev. Charles Ditcher, Vicar of South Brent, against the Venerable George Anthony Denison, Archdeacon of Taunton, and Vicar of East Brent, in the same diocese, for having advisedly maintained doctrines contrary and repugnant to the articles of religion of the Church of England, namely—the doctrine of the "real presence" in the sacrament. Dr. Phillimore and Dr. Deane appeared for the appellant, Archdeacon Denison; Dr. Bayford and Dr. Spinks for the respondent. Dr. Phillimore opened the case. The Judge (Sir J. Dodson) said that he understood a decision upon one of the points would go to the root of the whole case, and he would therefore hear first the arguments upon the fifth protest, which, if proved, would clearly involve the whole case. Dr. Phillimore accordingly proceeded to open his case upon the point—whether two years had elapsed between the alleged commission of the last offence and the citation to appear before the archbishop. He was supported by Dr. Deane. Dr. Bayford replied and the court adjourned.

UNWHOLESOME MEAT.—At the Guildhall on Saturday William Dawson, a butcher, in Newmarket, was summoned for exposing meat for sale that was unfit for human food. Mr. Fisher, one of the Inspectors of the market, stated that he saw a quantity of meat cut up into joints, and exposed for sale, on the defendant's stall; but it was in such a corrupt state from disease that it was totally unfit for food. Sir R. Carden said that if this had not been the first complaint against the defendant, he should have ordered him to be indicted at the sessions, for the public were not to be poisoned by such persons as the defendant for the sake of pecuniary gain. He then fined the defendant 20*s.* and costs; or, in default, 14 days' imprisonment.

Literature.

On Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease. By Sir JOHN FORBES, M.D., &c. London: Churchill. 1857.

WE cannot pretend to do justice to all the topics of interest that are discussed in this book, and must content ourselves with little more than an indication of its object and conclusions. The reader need not be repelled by the title, imagining that it is a book only for those initiated by special training into the mysteries of the medical art: Its method and style are popular, and it contains nothing which any one of ordinarily good sense will not read with interest and appreciation.

The leading intention of Sir J. Forbes is to assert the "autocracy of nature" in the cure of disease, and the very narrow limits within which art can be of any service. In order to show this he enlarges on the position which nature occupies in the natural history of disease, tracing natural functions at work in its causes, origin, nature, course, progress, and terminations. We need not follow him through this exposition, though we should much like to ponder and discuss several points involved. The main drift is to show that in every stage of the natural history of disease, the same vital processes are at work, producing morbid phenomena, which ordinarily act in the play and evolution of normal processes and functions—that disease is, in short, modified vital action, not the intrusion of an alien force, "not an *imperium in imperio*" even, but rather a "constitutional opposition."

Having thus traced the action of natural forces in disease, the conclusion is strengthened that

the same forces must be equally operative in its cure, and that all the aid that art can bring is adjuvant, designed to assist not supersede natural processes. The author shows that in cases where nature has been left with little or no help from art, the results have not been on the whole less favourable than under opposite circumstances. To illustrate this he refers to the course of diseases in the lower animals, in uncivilised nations, or in nations where medical science is in a very crude state, to isolated cases recorded of disease occurring where medical aid could not be obtained, to the results of treatment by various quack remedies, to the growing experience of medical men. But the most decisive experiment of natural powers, unaided by art, he thinks is to be found in homœopathy. He finds it impossible to deny that under the use of "infinite-simal, in other words imaginary, doses of drugs, a sufficiently large number of cases get well to prevent the existence of any striking contrast in the public eye between its practical effects and those of the ordinary system." The author then proceeds to exhibit the resources of the medical art—Preventive and Curative; Surgical and Medical; Regiminal, Physical, and Pharmaceutical—rather encumbering, we think, his pages with a list such as may be found in any elementary treatise on *Materia Medica*. The mode of action of remedies is then expounded. A very few diseases can be treated by remedies that are in some unknown way specific; the author enumerates ten, but against four of these a note of interrogation is placed. A larger class of diseases may be treated by remedies which go directly to the diseased part or organ; but these are mostly diseases of a simple character, and situated within arm's reach, or capable of being brought into immediate contact with drugs. Another set of diseases is situated in organs which may be reached by drugs, but whether the drugs will act curatively when they get there, our author does not say. We may use mercury in liver affections, digitalis in heart affections, and so on, and be certain of touching the diseased part, but with what result appeareth not. Indeed, the author seems to discourage the expectations of those who think the line of discovery for specifics is indicated by the track of the drug through the system, as revealed by pathology, and chemistry, and the microscope. The vast majority of diseases must be treated by indirect methods. The rationale of this kind of treatment is not very obvious; those who rely upon it as curative seem to have the impression that the enemy can be destroyed by ravaging, or in some manner modifying the territory which is being attacked, or that one unruly vital force may be expelled by another. The tactics to be pursued must be left very much to the skill and reason of the physician. Of this indirect treatment the author gives four kinds, or rather four degrees of the same kind. There is the "extinguishing treatment," which hopes by a bold stroke of heroic practice to annihilate a disease as soon as it appears;—the "active method," which without going so far as the extinguishing, hopes by "depletive, derivative, and perturbative" processes, to unsettle the disease and expel it from the system;—the third method is described as "auxiliary, or mild treatment," or "rational expectation;" it does not profess to do anything curative, but trusts to nature, endeavours to make all the environments of the patient favourable to recovery, to remove any obstacles which are within reach,—

"Not to attempt by any vigorous measures to alter the course of the morbid processes so long as they seem to keep within the limit of safety; and when they transgress, or threaten to transgress, this limit, only to modify them by such mild measures as, if they fail in doing good, cannot do much harm;"—

lastly, to be on the look-out for "such contingencies as great irritation, or pain, exhaustion, sleeplessness, diarrhoea, vomiting, intercurrent local inflammations," and meet them by such drugs, stimulants, &c., as can mitigate or remove them. The fourth kind of indirect treatment is rather illogically stated to be "pure expectancy," or doing nothing, which the author identifies with homœopathy. He admits that this is "innocent," and "if homœopathy is inconsistent enough [where is the inconsistency?] to sanction and adopt the regiminal practice of ordinary medicine, it may be beneficial as well as innocent," and in acute diseases may even have an advantage over the more heroic modes of ordinary practice. The author does not conceal the pang which it causes him, to "be forced to make admissions in favour of a system so utterly false and despicable as homœopathy, and in derogation of one that is both true and rational;" but he appears to think he can spare homœopathy a sigh when he looks at it from such an elevated vantage ground as "rational expectation" and "mild auxiliary treatment."

Having thus exhibited the instruments of medical art, and the mode in which they act, the author gives a summary statement of the powers of the medical art. It can, only in rare

and exceptional cases, cure disease. But the medical attendant is able

"To restrain, occasionally at least, over action, when distressing; to compose many functional disturbances; to allay pain; to procure sleep; to relieve uneasy sensations; to lessen morbid heat; to dispel morbid cold; to allay thirst; to free the bowels when painfully constipated; to check diarrhoea; to check or mitigate local inflammations and feverishness in general; to institute a regimen calculated, either positively or negatively, to aid the conservative and restorative processes; to allay apprehension; to inspire confidence; in a word, to exercise all the functions and perform all the offices of an intelligent and benevolent helper of the sick."

Such is the function of the medical man. Well may our author exclaim—

"What a falling off is such a result as this from the *beau idéal* of a divine and perfect art, as conceived by the ignorant! What a contrast do our guessing, groping, tentative, feeble proceedings bear to the high, heroic empiricism which could boast of a direct and positive remedy for every disease!"

We do not intend to discuss the questions of fact brought thus under notice; our own leanings are perhaps indicated by the colouring of our description, and we are quite content that it should be so, believing that the faithfulness of our report is not at all affected by an approving "hear, hear," or an incredulous "oh! oh!" occasionally interjected, or by the "sensation" which must sometimes make itself audible by an involuntary rustling and irrepressible buzz. We may, however, be allowed a remark on the logic and reasoning of our author.

We think, then, that Sir John Forbes does not assign too high a place to nature, but that he entirely mistakes the attitude which should be assumed by art. Our ideal of art must ever exceed the possibilities of practice, and it often happens that provisional measures must be adopted while we are waiting the development of science to put a more perfect instrument into our hands. But let us not depress our ideal because of the imperfections of our actual; let us not vaunt our "expectation" as if it were the fulfilment of scientific prophecy, and, because we can do nothing, talk complacently of the "philosophical" manner in which we do it. If we have lost our garments, let us cover our nakedness as conveniently and modestly as we may, and not shamelessly brag about our *ex post facto* theories of *sans culottisme* as if we had arrived at the *né plus ultra* of enlightenment and civilisation. Now we think that no imperfection in actual medical practice ought to be suffered to lower the true ideal of medical art, which we take to be exactly that which the crude and ignorant in all times and places have assumed it to be—namely, to cure disease by specific treatment. Even if nine out of the ten real or questionable specifics which our author enumerates were unknown, the existence of one specific ought to be regarded as nature's assertion of the object which scientific faith should ever keep in contemplation. And it must be regarded as the decadence or extinction of real faith in nature, and therefore in science, when such views of medical art are propounded as "if they do not quite extinguish these notions as altogether visionary, at least reduce them to a very humble and insignificant position amid the rational doctrines of physic." It seems almost incredible that an "M.D., D.C.L. (Oxon), F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Queen's Household," &c., &c., should gravely offer this as the maturest result of fifty years' thought and practice, and bequeath it as "a legacy to his younger brethren," "with the feeling of solemnity which naturally accompanies any act that is to be the last of its kind." Assuredly it is no accident, not a result solely of ignorance and superstition, that "the medical art has from the beginning been called a divine art;" "its legendary origin with the gods" may possibly be not altogether a mistake; and the hope of "a power of relieving or removing all diseases by some sort of mystical agency," which, though not "quite foreign to the ordinary vital operations of the animal system," is yet as subtle and untraceable as they are—an agency too "mystical" to be condensed into any classification of evacuants, tonics, stimulants, narcotics, and so forth—has a sublimity in it which it cannot lose, though it be abandoned by philosophers and only cherished by the vulgar. If these are "golden dreams," it is a pity to disturb them by such "waking realities," as a strong purge, or a tormenting blister, or an aggressive lancet, or even by the blank despondency of "rational expectation." We believe they are not only dreams—they are utterances of the *vox populi*, because the *vox Dei* has determined that so men shall hope and strive, and not hope and strive in vain.

We have only room for a single hint as to what we regard as the true province of art in the treatment of disease. We agree with Sir John Forbes that art should not supersede nature, nor control nature; we will even go farther, and say that, in a true sense, art cannot *aid* nature, and ought not to make the attempt. What, then, is the alternative? Not "expectation," however "rational," however dressed up by "mild regiminal means" so as to look other than it is—a

mere bodiless phantom, too impalpable for any one but a "philosopher" to worship. No; we believe art should *identify* itself with nature. This it will never do by treating the contingencies of a disease, instead of the disease itself—nor by groping precariously after "mild measures, which, if they fail in doing good, cannot do much harm"—nor by any rationalistic following of the most recent and approved *opinions* about treatment,—but by an intelligent appreciation of universal laws of healing, obedience to which cannot do harm, but must do good. And we would urge Sir John Forbes to look a little more impartially than he yet appears to have done, and see whether or not any existing *pathy* or *pathies* have announced such a law.

Poems and Songs. By JAMES McDUGALL. London: A. Hall and Co.

If it be one of our most irritating tasks to read and notice the host of volumes of verse, of every degree of foolishness and weakness, which come to us almost week by week, the year round; it is, on the other hand, one of our most delightful and self-repaying labours to draw occasionally from the mass, and to introduce to our readers, some volume, perhaps bearing an unknown name, which has the spirit and life of true Poetry. Such a pleasure is ours in introducing Mr. McDougall's "Poems and Songs." The book comes from Manchester. In that city of chimneys and warehouses, the Arts are this year making a sojourn; and there, too, Poetry has her bowers. In the "cotton metropolis," Charles Swain sings not alone:—and, among the singers of the day, the thoughtful, true-hearted, and sweet-voiced, we now have Mr. McDougall quietly taking his place. Mr. McDougall has the poet-nature,—has feeling, imagination, and capacity of poetic expression. He is not of the passionate and "spasmodic" school. He is master of his faculties,—is not a stranger to the principles of the art of Poetry, as something more than a *feeling* for poetry,—and is always chaste and calm. There is a marked intellectuality in his poetry,—sometimes the solidity of the thought is more than the imagination has succeeded in clothing and adorning according to its own nature. Yet, elsewhere there is delicacy of fancy, and distinctness (though not great variousness) of imagery, that incline us to refer the less poetical and more didactic pages to the influence of a moral purpose, earnestly bearing down and onward to its end. It is impossible, too, not to feel that there is, in most of these poems, *maturity*, both of thought and experience,—that nothing is tentative or crude; but that here is a complete expression of a poetic nature, to the extent of its own powers and acquirements.

From the first poem in the volume, entitled "A Lesson," we take a song, which not only discloses the lesson of the poem, but the spirit of the author's entire work.

"When the world was lonely,
Left in darkness only
On its way to move,
Born 'mid light, came Love!
Love, the many-voiced!
Oh! how earth rejoiced
When the angel-bands
Sung in eastern lands
Their sweet carol, swelling
Through the night, and telling
Of a Love Divine,
God and man to join!
Lo! anon in teachings,
And in wondrous preachings,
Came the voice of Love
The God-man to prove.
Now, in deafening thunders,
'Mid the awful wonders
Of the Crucifixion,
Yet with benediction,
Came the mournful crying
Of the Saviour dying,
When at the last throes
Love o'er-mastered Woe.
Then those sounds so holy,
Caught by martyrs lowly,
Rang within their hearts
Like the long-lost parts
Of a celestial anthem;
And as God did grant them
Heart and voice, they sang
The glad song to man.
And like waves of ocean,
With a ceaseless motion,
Shall the echoes swell,
The Love-tale to tell:
Till from wanderings dreary,
Worn, and waste, and weary,
Shall the world have rest
Upon the Father's breast!"

A fine power of description appears in several pieces:—we select one of the charming little series of "Summer Scenes;" not as the best illustration of that power, but as conveniently brief, so that it may be extracted entire (p. 33).

"The river glideth by the hamlet old,
It stealeth through the bridge moss-grown and grey,—
It sweepeth proudly past the daisied wold,—
It rippleth merrily o'er pebbles gay;—

It fills the vale that lieth 'twixt the hills,—
Right noble hills, in suits of golden green,—
And joyously receives the little rills
That gaily sparkle in the summer sheen.

Slow now its pace, and quieter its flow,
O'er depths whence white-leaved water lilies spring;
They gem its breast in many a pearly row,
And to the sky their stainless beauty fling.

Now a broad barrier stays its happy way,
Thrown up by hands long powerless in the grave,
And thus imprisoned, to the eye of day
It spreads a mirror, clear, without a wave.

The swallow skims across the placid pool;
The water-fowl securely leads her brood;
The wild-dove finds a bower green and cool
Within the cover of the bordering wood.

The willow with a matchless grace stoops down,
And spreads a leafy curtain o'er the mill
To hide its crumbling walls; while, gaunt and brown,
Stands its great wheel, bedight in weeds, and still.

Here reigns the quiet of primeval time,
The holy silence nature only knows;
And broken only by her voice sublime
When o'er the world the storm in triumph goes."

There is pleasant music in some of the songs,—which
are simple in sentiment, and natural in feeling. And
with a single specimen we will close this very genuine
little book (p. 87).

"Happy time of Youth,
Stay oh! stay for ever,—
Days of love and truth,
Leave, oh! leave me never.

Shall I e'er grow old?
Oh! I will not think it.
Will this heart go cold?
Nay—no care shall shrink it.

Filled to life's bright brim
Is my soul with gladness,
Nought its joy shall dim—
Nought restrain its madness.

Like a swollen stream
Rushing o'er its bounds,
Is my heart's wild dream
In its magic rounds.

Leaping, laughing, playing,
It shall aye rejoice,
Ne'er its rapture staying
Nor its happy voice.

Earth is heaven to me,
Full of fairy beauty,
And in life I see
One long pleasant duty.

So shall it remain
Till this dream be ended,
And I wake again
When heaven and earth are blended.

Happy time of youth,
Stay, oh! stay for ever;
Days of love and truth,
Leave, oh! leave me never!"

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Peniel; or the Angel Wrestling. Wertheim and Macintosh.
Things New and Old. J. Nisbet and Co.
Light from the Cross. T. and T. Clark.
Natural Theology. Rivington.
Foundation's Essays on Fundamental Truths. Nisbet and Co.
The Press and the Public Service. Routledge and Co.
The Panorama of History. Darton and Co.
The Memorial Name. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.
Sonnenschein's German for the English. D. Nutt.
On Preaching and Preachers. Ward and Co.
London University Calendar. 1857. Taylor and Francis.
The Chain of Lilies. Knight and Son.
Select Works of Dr. Chalmers. Vol. XI. T. Constable and Co.
A Memoir of Eustace Carey. Pewtress and Co.
Christianity and Infidelity. A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.
Titan. J. Hogg.
The National Magazine. National Magazine Company.
The Crystal Palace Magazine, No. 3. A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.
The Eclectic Review. Ward and Co.
Tait's Edinburgh Magazine. Partridge and Co.
The United Presbyterian Magazine. W. Oliphant and Sons.
The Train. Groombridge and Sons.
The Scottish Congregational Magazine. A. Fullarton and Co.
The London Monthly Review. Partridge and Co.
Review of some Provisions of the Proposed New Constitution and
Discipline of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster. E. Whitfield.
Church of England Monthly Review. Wertheim and Macintosh.
The Evangelical Magazine. Ward and Co.
The Christian Reformer. Whitfield.
London University Magazine. A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

Gleanings.

Spots of considerable size are beginning to make
their appearance on the sun's disc.

Why are washerwomen the most inconsistent of
persons?—Because they put out tubs to catch "soft"
water, when it rains "hard."

An immense trade is now carried on in Paris in
French "Cashmere" shawls: the Court patronizes
them.

M. Horace Vernet has received an official invitation
from Washington to paint the portrait of President
Buchanan. He is going to America for the purpose.

It is said that the Rev. James Caughey, the cele-
brated American Revivalist, is about to revisit this
country.

The library of the British Museum contains 450,000
volumes placed on shelves which occupy fifteen miles
of space.

Messrs. Constable and Co., who have undertaken
the publications of the Calvin Translation Society,
intimate that Vol. II. of the "Letters of Calvin" is
just finished, and is now in the hands of the binder.

A settler at King William's Town, in the Cape
colony, has received two bales of wool grown by
Tambookies: it is to be hoped that this may prove
a commencement of wool-growing generally by the
Caffre tribes.

Lady Franklin has embarked the last relics of her
fortune in an ultimate expedition, which is to be di-
rected to the particular spot of the Polar regions
where tidings may be expected from the Esquimaux
of the lost voyagers.

Glycerine, we learn from a paper in the *Edin-
burgh Medical Journal*, is being extensively and suc-
cessfully employed as a substitute for cod-liver oil.
It has the recommendation of being much more agree-
able to take, being of a sweetish flavour.

So little does Mr. Justice Keogh regard etiquette,
that immediately on the termination of the Water-
ford assizes, he left the court in his robes, and got
into a cab, in order to catch the up-train for Dublin.
He outran the Mayor and Sheriff, who were in at-
tendance.

A work has just issued from Paternoster-row,
bearing this startling title:—"The Expected Great
Comet. Will the Comet Strike the Earth? Being
an Inquiry into the Prophetic Declarations in re-
ference to the Probability of a Collision, and the
consequent End of All Things in the Epoch of the
World's History."

Robert Kettle, of Glasgow, having left some
Temperance tracts at the house of a friend, found
them, on calling a few days after, serving the pur-
pose of curl-papers to one of the young ladies.
"Well," said he, "I see you have made use of the
tracts;" but immediately converted confusion into
merriment by adding, "only ye has put them on the
wrong side o' yer head, lassie."

A gentleman called on a rich but miserly old
nobleman and found him endeavouring to catch a
fly. Presently he succeeded in catching one, which
he immediately put into the sugar bowl, and shut
down the cover. The gentleman asked for an ex-
planation of the singular sport. "I'll tell you,"
replied the miser, a triumphant grin overspreading
his countenance, "I want to ascertain if the servants
steal the sugar."

A clergyman, not long ago, was earnestly pressing
upon the attention of a dying Lincolnshire boor
certain doctrines which have presented difficulties to
clearer heads under more favourable circumstances.
"Wut wi' faath," was the faint response, given in
the sick man's native Doric, "wut wi' faath, and
wut wi' the earth a turning round the sun, and wut
wi' the railroads a fuzziin' and a whuzzin', I'm clean
muddled, stoned, and bet." So saying he turned to
the wall and expired.

The *Jewish Chronicle* mentions that a curious
branch of business has been established at Lyons.
It appears that an association of howlers has been
formed, which engages to supply at each funeral a
number of professional weepers. The charge made
is five francs per head. They have adopted a pecu-
liar costume, and follow the hearse weeping and sob-
bing. This recalls to memory the mourning women
mentioned in the Bible, who, on mournful occasions,
likewise let themselves out on hire, wringing their
hands, and crying and lamenting aloud.

An elegantly-dressed and aristocratic-looking lady
entered a first-class railroad car at the Paris depot.
A few days ago. As she opened the door and took her
place, she observed that the car was occupied by
three or four gentlemen, one of whom, at the moment
of her appearance, was in the act of lighting his
cigar. Observing the lady, he made a significant
grimace, and, with the characteristic politeness of a
Frenchman, said, "Would smoking incommode you,
madame?" "I do not know, sir; no gentleman has
ever yet smoked in my presence." He put out his
cigar.

At a party in Paris, recently, the lady of the
house insisted on young Dumas entertaining the
company by telling them a story. "Madame," said
he, "every one to his profession. The gentleman
who preceded me, as I came in, is an officer of artil-
lery. When he has fired a cannon in your drawing-
room, I will tell my story." This is something like
the anecdote told of the famous pianist Lefebvre-
Wely. He was one evening in company with the
wealthy shoe-dealer, Sakoski; and the latter called
upon him so perseveringly to play for his satisfac-
tion, that he consented, under the mere pressure of
importunity. Shortly after, at a party of his own,
composed of literary and artistic people, but to
which he had invited the bootmaker, Lefebvre-Wely
took his revenge. Before all the company, he ap-
proached Monsieur Sakoski with a boot in his hand
which lacked mending, and, in the same tone of
urgent politeness which the other had employed to
ask for music, he begged the immediate mending of
that rip in the boot? It is stated that the rich
Sakoski can never since bear the sight of either
piano or pianist.—*New York Home Journal*.

BIRTHS.

April 17, at 25, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, the wife of
JOHN WHITE KEYWORTH, M.D., of a daughter.

April 17, at Peckham-rye, the wife of JAMES PAYNE EASTY,
of a son.

April 18, at 21, High Park-street, Liverpool, the wife of the
Rev. WM. HARCUS, of a daughter.

April 19, at 8, Crown-terrace, Haverstock-hill, the wife of
Mr. E. F. STORR, of a son (still-born).

April 19, at Croydon, Surrey, the wife of Mr. R. S. MAITLAND,
of a son.

April 20, at Hill Top, Burslem, the wife of THOMAS BOSTOCK,
of a son.

MARRIAGES.

April 10, at the Caledonian-road Chapel, London, by the Rev.
Ebenazer Davies, Mr. JOHN KNAPMAN, of Ashburton, Devon, to
Miss ELIZABETH VALL EASTERNBROOK, of Islington.

April 13, at Neufchatel, Switzerland, Mr. HENRY WOODALL,
of Regent-street, to HANNAH, fourth daughter of the late Mr.
JOHN GOTT.

April 14, at the new Congregational Chapel, Kingston-on-
Thames, by the Rev. L. H. BYTNER, B.A., Mr. JOSEPH JEFFREY,
of Henley-on-Thames, to Miss RUTH RICHARDSON, of Teddington,
youngest daughter of Mr. RICHARDSON, of Hampton Court.
Being the first marriage in the new building, the minister pre-
sented to the bride a handsome Family Bible and Watts's
Hymn-Book.

April 15, at Lane Chapel, Holmfirth, by the Rev. George
Eustace, the Rev. ROBERT WILLAN, of Holmfirth, to HANNAH
TROTTER, daughter of the late Mr. EBERHARD WIMPERLEY,
manufacturer, of Burnley, near Holmfirth.

April 15, at St. James's, Paddington, MAGNUS FORBES MOR-
TON HERBERT, Esq., to HENRIETTA, daughter of Sir ROBERT
GUNNING, Bart.

April 15, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Rev. W.
Coghlan, WALTER LONG, Esq., M.P., of Rood Ashton, Wilts,
to Lady BISHOPP, eldest daughter of the late Admiral Sir
JAMES HILLIAR, K.C.B., K.C.H.

April 16, at the parish church of Preston, Lancashire, by the
Rev. W. L. Clay, curate of Bilsborrow, and brother of the bride,
assisted by the Rev. S. Hastings, FRANCIS CALVERT GILBERT,
Esq., of Chesterfield, eldest son of RICHARD GILBERT, Esq.,
Brook House, Staffordshire, to MARY SUSANNA, eldest daughter
of the Rev. JOHN CLAY, Preston.

April 18, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Capt. CHARLES REED
DRIVER, to FANNY, daughter of GEORGE WOOD, Esq.

DEATHS.

March 19, at sea, on board the steam ship Alma, on his
return voyage from India, JAMES HARTLEY, Esq., of Fairy Hall,
Nottingham, and 137, Leadenhall-street.

April 7, at St. George's Bay, Malta, CHARLES EDWARD JEFF-
COCK, Lieutenant 31st Regt., youngest son of WILLIAM JEFFCOCK,
Esq., of High Hazles, near Sheffield, aged twenty-three.

April 15, at Aberdeen, the Right Rev. WILLIAM SKINNER,
D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Primate of the
Scottish Episcopal Church, after a few days' illness, in his
seventy-eighth year.

April 18, at Kingsland, Mr. THOMAS BACKHOUSE, late a
member of the Stock Exchange, in his seventy-second year.

April 18, THEODORA, the infant daughter of the Rev. Wm.
HARCUS, of Toxteth-park, Liverpool.

April 19, at Blakeney, Gloucestershire, after a season of pro-
tracted severe suffering, which was borne with much patience,
the Rev. WILLIAM COPELEY, late minister of the Baptist Chapel,
Blakeney.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The Stock Market has been for the most part flat,
owing to the continued drain of money, and to the
unsatisfactory position of the Bank of France. But
during the last day or two there has been a favour-
able change in consequence of the removal of the
extreme pressure. This afternoon a tendency to-
wards improvement became observable, and the
closing quotations were $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above those of
yesterday. The market derives considerable support
from the recent re-investments of the dividends,
which have brought a better supply of money into
the Stock Exchange. The rate for loans on Govern-
ment stock to-day was $\frac{5}{4}$ to 6 per cent. In
the discount market, although the demand is
steady, there is a good supply of money. As a rule,
former rates are maintained, but in exceptional cases
first-class short paper is negotiated a trifle below the
Bank minimum. This was the day fixed for the
regular re-opening of the transfer books of the Re-
duced Three per Cents. and New Three per Cents.
The public appear to have absorbed stock, on ba-
lance, during the "shutting." Consols are 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93
for Money, and 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the 7th proximo. The
New Threes are 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92; the Reduced 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 91 $\frac{1}{2}$. The
New 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. 77. March Exchequer Bills, 6s
to 2s dis.; and the June ditto, 4s to 2s dis. A fair
amount of business is recorded in the Foreign Mar-
ket. The transactions reported in the Railway
Share Market are of a very limited character, and a
decline of fully $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. has taken place in the
value of some of the leading lines.

The departures from the port of London for the
Australian colonies during the past week comprised
five vessels—three to Port Phillip, one to Sydney,
and one to Adelaide, with an aggregate capacity of
2,145 tons. The rates of freight exhibit little variation.

In the general business of the port of London
during the past week there was little change. The
number of ships reported inward was 194, being 18
less than in the previous week. These included 55
with cargoes of corn, flour, rice, &c., 17 with cargoes
of sugar, and 1 cargo of tea. The total number of
vessels cleared outward was 112, including 14 in
ballast, showing a decrease of 8.

Large parcels of gold are expected from Australia,
several vessels being due which, in the aggregate,
convey upwards of 627,000*l*.

In the Bankruptcy Court to-day, in the case of
Robson, the fraudulent clerk of the Crystal Palace
Company, the dividend meeting was further ad-
journd. The Crystal Palace Company seek to prove
to the extent of 17,889*l*. against the "estate," which
is valued at only a few hundred pounds.

Messrs. Baring have announced a subscription for
the Russian Railways, but the project is not favour-
ably received; notwithstanding the intrigue that may
be practised, there is little prospect of anything like
an adequate list of English subscribers being obtained
for the 2,000,000*l*. apportioned to English share-
holders. The shares in the Russian Railways were
nominally quoted to-day only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium.

The Bank of England proprietors have elected
Mr. S. Neave as Governor, and Mr. B. Dobree as
Deputy-Governor.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

| | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3 per Cent. Consols | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 | 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ 93 |
| Consols for Ac- count | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 | 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94 |
| 3 per Cent. Red. New 3 per Cent. | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 |
| Annuities .. | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ 92 |
| India Stock .. | — 221 | — 221 | — 221 | — 221 | — 221 | — 221 |
| Bank Stock .. | — 213 | — 213 | — 213 | — 213 | — 213 | — 213 |
| Exchequer-bills | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis |
| India Bonds .. | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis | — 8 dis |
| Long Annuities | 1716-18 | — 18 | — 18 | — 18 | — 18 | 1716-18 |

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 11th day of April, 1857.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Notes issued | £22,796,165 | Government Debt | £11,015,100 |
| | | Other Securities | 3,459,900 |
| | | Gold Coin & Bullion | 8,321,165 |
| | | Silver Bullion | — |
| £22,796,165 | | £22,796,165 | |

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Proprietors' Capital | £14,553,000 | Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity) | £11,333,126 |
| Reserve | 3,287,639 | Other Securities | 18,984,640 |
| Public Deposits | 5,116,350 | Notes | 3,044,130 |
| Other Deposits | 10,481,067 | Gold & Silver Coin | 743,447 |
| Seven Day and other Bills | 717,287 | | |
| £34,105,833 | | £34,105,833 | |

April 16, 1857. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Friday, April 17, 1857.

BANKRUPT.

CHOAT, J., Albert-road, Dalston, tailor, April 23, May 21; solicitors, Messrs. Morris, Stone, and Co., Moorgate-street.
LETT, F., High-street, Lambeth, and Lavender-villas, Battersea, potter, April 23, May 21; solicitor, Mr. Phillips, Sise-lane.
HENDERSON, A. B., London-street, Paddington, livery stable keeper, April 29, May 26; solicitor, Mr. Voules, Gresham-street.
SMITH, J., Broad-street, Lambeth, dealer in iron, April 28, May 29; solicitors, Messrs. Tippetts and Son, Sise-lane.
TAYLER, W. J., Albion-terrace, Kingdland, upholsterer, April 28, May 26; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrance, Flew, and Boyer, Old Jewry-chambers.
ADAMS, W., Huntingdon, miller, April 30, May 26; solicitors, Messrs. Bird and Moore, Gray's-inn-square; and Mr. Hallen, Huntingdon.
TENT, W., Royal Exchange, hoiler, April 30, May 26; solicitors, Messrs. Hillier and Fenwick, Fenchurch-street.
RICHARDS, T., Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, draper, May 4, June 1; solicitors, Messrs. Brittan and Sons, Bristol.
JAYNE, G., jun., Newport, Monmouthshire, builder, April 27, May 26; solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Gilling, Bristol.
NEAVE, R. W., Market Basin, Lincolnshire, and Sheffield, miller, May 6, June 3; solicitors, Mr. Daubeny, Market Basin; and Messrs. Stamp and Jackson, Hull.
DALTON, S., DALTON, D., and DALTON, A., Leeswood, Flintshire, ironmasters; solicitors, Messrs. Cooper and Sons, Manchester; and Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.
STOKER, A., Findon-hill, Durham, grocer, April 27, June 9; solicitors, Mr. Watson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Mr. Harwood, Clement's-lane, Lombard-street.

Tuesday, April 21, 1857.

BANKRUPT.

DALTON, L., Canal-bridge, Old Kent-road, stone merchant, May 5, June 2; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrance, Flew, and Boyer, Old Jewry-chambers, City.
BROOKER, G., Leadenhall-market, City, provision dealer, May 5, June 2; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrance, Flew, and Boyer, Old Jewry-chambers.
ASHLING, R., Duxford, Cambridgeshire, brewer, May 4, June 3; solicitors, Messrs. Aldridge and Bromley, South-square, Gray's-inn; and Messrs. Probert and Wade, Saffron Walden, Essex.
SHAW, J., and SHAW, J., Sheffield, woollen drapers, May 2, June 6; solicitor, Mr. Broadbent, Sheffield.
PEPPER, J., and HOLMES, E. A., Sheffield, grocers, May 9, June 6; solicitors, Messrs. Chambers and Waterhouse, Sheffield.
NEVILLE, M., Liverpool, braasfounder, May 8 and 29; solicitor, Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.
WICK, J., Sheffield, electro-plater, May 2, June 6; solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Burdett, Sheffield.
EVANS, T., Newtown, Montgomeryshire, grocer, May 4, June 1; solicitor, Mr. Jones, Newtown.
SMITH, S. J., Birmingham, auctioneer, May 1 and 22; solicitors, Messrs. Knight and Suckling, Birmingham.
NOELL, H., Phillack, Cornwall, April 30, May 28; solicitors, Messrs. Roscorla and Davies, Penzance; and Mr. Stogdon, Exeter.
BLIKESBERG, F., and SARAN, M., Liverpool, commission merchants, May 4, June 1; solicitors, Messrs. Holden and Son, Liverpool.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, April 20.

We had a small quantity of wheat on sale this morning from Kent, but liberal from Essex; the foreign supplies in the past week have been moderate. The wheat trade was not so active to-day as on Friday, but for fine samples of English 1s to 2s per quarter more than on Monday last was made, and foreign in some cases sold 1s per quarter dearer. Ship flour sold slowly at 30s per sack; in American barrels less doing than on Friday, but that day's prices maintained. We had a large arrival of foreign barley, but very little of home-grown; and fine samples met with a free sale at last week's prices, and secondary the turn dearer. Beans and peas dull. The supply of oats was more moderate, and finest samples readier sale at 6d per quarter advance on last week's quotations. Linseed and cakes dull.

| BRITISH. | | FOREIGN. | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Wheat | s. d. | Wheat | s. d. |
| Essex and Kent, Red | 44 to 62 | Dantzic | 70 to 80 |
| Ditto White | 45 68 | Konigsberg, Red | 46 68 |
| Lincoln, Norfolk, and | — | Pomeranian, Red | 42 68 |
| Yorkshire Red | — | Rostock | 42 68 |
| Scotch | 46 48 | Danish and Holstein | 42 48 |
| Rye | 36 38 | East Friesland | 41 44 |
| Barley, malting | 44 46 | Petersburg | 48 54 |
| Distilling | 34 38 | Riga and Archangel | — |
| Malt (pale) | 74 76 | Polish Odessa | 48 50 |
| Beans, Mazagan | — | Marianopol | 48 50 |
| Ticks | — | Taganrog | 44 46 |
| Harrow | — | Egyptian | 56 64 |
| Pigeon | — | American (U.S.) | 34 36 |
| Peas, White | 34 36 | Barley, Pomeranian | — |
| Grey | 38 40 | Konigsberg | 32 35 |
| Maple | 38 40 | Danish | 22 24 |
| Boilers | 38 40 | East Friesland | 22 24 |
| Tares (English new) | 36 38 | Egyptian | 22 24 |
| Foreign | 36 42 | Odessa | 22 26 |
| Oats (English feed) | 20 25 | Beans— | |
| Flour, town made, per | — | Horse | 32 34 |
| Sack of 280lbs | 50 52 | Pigeon | 34 38 |
| Linseed, English | — | Egyptian | 36 37 |
| Baltic | 66 70 | Peas, White | 34 38 |
| Black Sea | 66 70 | Oats— | |
| Hempseed | 40 42 | Dutch | 17 23 |
| Canaryseed | 70 74 | Jahde | 17 23 |
| Cloverseed, per cwt. | — | Danish | 16 20 |
| 112lbs English | 50 70 | Danish, Yellow feed | 20 23 |
| German | 50 60 | Swedish | 21 23 |
| French | 60 66 | Petersburg | 19 23 |
| American | 60 68 | Flour, per bar. of 160lbs— | |
| Linseed Oakes, 150 lbs to 160 | — | New York | 26 32 |
| Rape Oakes, 60 lbs to 70 | — | Spanish, per sack | 54 58 |
| Rapeseed, 40 lbs to 42 | — | Carawayseed, per cwt. | 36 40 |

SEEDS, Monday, April 20.—The favourable change in the weather on Saturday has been the cause of many country orders arriving in town for clover-seed; the imports being moderate, and fine qualities of red having become scarce, a rally in the prices of such has taken place, and prices are higher by some shillings per cwt, whilst for other sorts there was a better sale, at fully as much money. Fine trefoil was also better to sell, at full prices. Tares were abundant, but the better sorts taken more freely; inferior qualities sold at low and irregular rates. Prime canaryseed was fully as dear. Sainfoin more pressing offered, and can be bought lower. Grass seeds were steady in value and demand.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 8d to 8½d; household ditto, 6 to 7½d per 4lbs loaf.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, April 20.

We were very scantily supplied with foreign stock to-day. The whole changed hands at high currencies. Compared with Monday last, there was a considerable increase in the arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts; and their general quality was good. Still, however, the supply was only moderate for the time of year. The attendance of butchers was not to say numerous; and all breeds of beasts moved off slowly, at a decline on last week's quotations of 3d per 8lbs, the highest figure for the best Scots being 5s per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received 2,200 Scots and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 300 of various breeds; from Ireland, 80 oxen; and from Scotland, 450 Scots. We were again very moderately supplied with all kinds of sheep, the quality of which was prime. The mutton trade was not very brisk, yet Friday's advance in the quotations of 4d per 8lbs was supported. The best old Downs, in the wool, were worth 6s 2d; out of the wool, 5s 4d per 8lbs. Lambs were in fair supply, and steady request, at from 6s to 7s per 8lbs. About 200 came to hand from the Isle of Wight. We were scantily supplied with calves, yet the veal trade ruled heavy, at a decline in value of 2d per 8lbs. Pigs were in moderate supply and heavy request, at barely stationary prices.

Per 8lbs to sink the offal.

| | s. d. | s. d. | | s. d. | s. d. | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------|----|---|---|
| Inf. coarse beasts | 3 | 4 to 3 | 6 | Pr. coarse woolled | 5 | 4 to 5 | 8 | | |
| Second quality | 3 | 8 | 4 | 0 | Prime Southdown | 5 | 10 | 6 | 2 |
| Prime large oxen | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | Lge. coarse calves | 4 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Prime Scots, &c. | 4 | 10 | 5 | 0 | Prime small | 5 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| Coarse inf. sheep | 4 | 6 | 4 | 10 | Large hogs | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Second quality | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | Neat-sm. porkers | 4 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Lambs 6s 6d to 7s 6d. | | | | | | | | | |

Lambs, 6s 6d to 7s 6d.

Suckling calves, 2½s to 30s; Quarter-old store pigs, 2½s to 28s each.

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL, Monday, April 20.

The supplies of both town and country-killed meat on sale in these markets continue very moderate. Owing to the late advance in prices in the live market, higher quotations have prevailed here, yet the trade generally is by no means active.

Per 8lbs by the carcase.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Inferior beef | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | Inf. mutton | 3 | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| Middling ditto | 3 | 6 | 3 | 10 | Middling ditto | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Prime large do | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | Prime ditto | 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Do. small do. | 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 | Veal | 4 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Large pork | 3 | 10 | 4 | 2 | Small pork | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| | | | | | Lambs, 6s 8d to 6s 4d | | | | |

Lambs, 6s 6d to 7s 6d.

PRODUCE MARKET, MINCHING-LANE, April 21.

TEA.—An improvement has taken place in the demand for all good qualities, and a rather active business has been done at full rates. Common Congou realises 1s 0½d to 1s 0¼d per lb.

SUGAR.—The market rules active, and a brisk demand both for home use and for exportation is experienced. Large quantities are advertised for public sale during the week. In the refined market business has been active, and prices are fully supported.

COFFEE.—Plantation and native Ceylon are in good request at full rates, and the demand for other qualities rules brisk at, in some instances, a slight advance in value.

RICE.—The market is very quiet; no alteration in prices can be reported.

RUM.—The demand is inactive, and but little business has been done; previous rates were barely maintained.

TALLOW.—The market has displayed more activity, and prices have an upward tendency. P.Y.C. on the spot, 54s 6d to 54s 6½d; May and June delivery, 55s; and last three months, 53s 8d to 53s 6d per cwt. A large business has been done in home melted at 54s per cwt.

PROVISIONS, Monday, April 20.—We have no new feature to report in Irish butter. Very little was sold last week. Prices were quite nominal. Foreign, all of best quality, was cleared off at 11½s to 11s. Other kinds met a slow and limited sale, at irregular rates. Bacon presented a rather more healthy appearance, and sales were made to a fair extent on board, and landed at an advance of 1s to 2s. Hams of prime quality were in request, and being in small supply, 1s to 2s dearer. In lard no material change.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

| | s. d. | | s. d. |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Friesland, per cwt. | 108 to 114 | Cheshire, per cwt. | 68 to 78 |
| Kiel | 112 120 | Cheddar | 74 84 |
| Dorset | 114 120 | Double Gloucester | 60 74 |
| Carlisle | 100 110 | Single ditto | — |
| Waterford | — | York Hams | 90 100 |
| Lincoln | 108 116 | Westmoreland ditto | 90 100 |
| Limerick | 90 100 | Irish ditto | 90 92 |
| Sligo | 104 114 | Wiltshire Bacon (dried) | 74 78 |
| Fresh, per dozen | 13 15 | Irish (green) | 70 72 |

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, April 18.—Forced strawberries are still too plentiful for the demand. The supply of hot-house grapes has improved, and prices for them are lower. Pineapples continue sufficient for the demand. Good dessert apples are now getting extremely scarce. French salad is still supplied, as are also cratesful of white Cornish broccoli. Forced vegetables comprise French beans, sea-kale, asparagus, and rhubarb. Cucumbers may also be obtained. Kent cob nuts fetch 140s per 100lbs; Barcelona nuts, 20s per bushel; new Spanish and Brazil, 18s ditto; and chestnuts from 14s to 24s ditto. The supply of oranges is limited. Portugal onions fetch from 2s to 3s per dozen. Potato markets much improved, and prices fall 30s per ton higher than last week. Cut flowers, consist of orchids, Chinese primulas, cinerarias, gardenias, heliotropes, jonquils, lily of the valley, tulips, camellias, geraniums, violets, mignonette, heath, and roses.

POTATOES, BOROUGH and SPITALFIELDS, Monday, April 20.—Consistently, since Monday last, only moderate supplies of potatoes have come to hand; but by land carriage the arrivals have been seasonably good. The trade is steady, at the quotations. The imports have amounted to 527 bags from Hambro', 686 ditto from Rotterdam, and 667 ditto from Schiedam. York regents 100s to 145s; Kent and Essex ditto, 95s to 130s; Scotch ditto, 90s to 115s; ditto cups, 85s to 95s; middlings, 60s to 75s; Lincoln, 85s to 100s; blues, 85s to 95s; foreign, 80s to 95s.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, April 20.—Our market remains about the same as at the date of our last report. The trade continues moderately active, and prices for the finer sorts are fully maintained.

WOOL, CITY, Monday, April 20.—As the value of money rules very high in the discount market, and as the next public sale of colonial wool in London—at which 55,000 bales will be brought forward—are appointed to commence on the 30th inst., our market continues heavy; indeed so little business is passing that the quotations are almost nominal. The supply of wool on offer is but moderate.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c., Saturday, April 18.—Most kinds of Baltic hemp are dull, but Manila parcels are steady, at 37½ to 54½ per ton; Petersburg clean 35½ to 10s, outback 32½ to 34½ to 10s, half-clean 30½ per ton. Flax moves off slowly, on former terms. Jute and coir goods support previous rates.

TALLOW, Monday, April 20.—Our market is inactive, and prices are a shade lower than on Monday last. To-day P.Y.C.

on the spot is quoted at 53s 6d per cwt. For forward delivery nothing passing. Town tallow 53s net cash. Rough fat 2s 11½d per 8lbs.

PARTICULARS.

| | 1853. | 1854. | 1855. | 1856. | 1857. |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Stock | Casks. 23961 | Casks. 33894 | Casks. 32552 | Casks. 20079 | Casks. 13673 |
| Price of Yellow Candle | 47s 0d | 64s 3d | 51s 9d | 47s 3d | 53s 6d |
| to | to | to | to | to | to |
| Delivery last Week | 2597 | 943 | 2290 | 8181 | 2020 |
| Ditto from the 1st of June | 95825 | 88857 | 76407 | 97647 | 97353 |
| Arrived last Week | 81 | 1008 | 1601 | 29 | 80 |
| Ditto from the 1st of June | 81158 | 99536 | 72959 | 71184 | 94046 |
| Price of Town Tallow | 48s 6d | 64s 9d | 52s 0d | 50s 6d | 55s 9d |

OILS, Monday, April 20.—Lined oil, on the spot, is at 38s 6d to 39s per cwt. Foreign refined rape if selling at 53s 6d to 54s; brown, 50s 6d to 51s. Cocoa-nut is dull, at 48s to 50s. Palm is selling at 48s to 45s 6d. Spermaceti, at 98s; pale seal, 48s to 48½ 10s; yellow, 44s to 46½; cod, 42s 10s to 49s; southern, 44s to 47s. Turpentine is still drooping, but whale-bone is dearer.

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, April 11.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Market Hides, 56 to 64lbs | 0 5½ to 0 6 per lb. |
| Ditto 64 72lbs | 0 6 0 6½ |
| Ditto 72 80lbs | 0 6½ 0 6½ |
| Ditto 80 88lbs | 0 6½ 0 6½ |
| Ditto 88 96lbs | 0 6½ 0 7 |
| Ditto 96 104lbs | 0 7 0 7½ |
| Horse Hides | 0 0 10 0 each |
| Calf Skins, light | 3 0 5 0 |
| Ditto full | 5 0 6 0 |
| Polled Sheep | 0 0 0 0 |
| Kents and Half Breeds | 8 6 10 0 |
| Downs | 6 3 7 6 |
| Lambs | 0 0 0 0 |
| Shearings | 1 4 1 5 |

HAY, SMITHFIELD, April 21.—Fine upward meadow and rye grass hay, 78s to 80s; inferior ditto, 50s to 60s; superior clover, 95s to 100s; inferior ditto, 70s to 80s; straw, 2½s to 28s per load of 36 trusses.

METALS, Saturday, April 18.—The transactions in the iron market, this week, have been very moderate, and Scotch pig has closed at 74s 6d to 75s cash. Zinc is dull, at 35½ to 36½ 10s. In tin very little is doing. Banca 14½s, Straits, 14½s to 14½s. Tin plates may be had on rather easier terms. IC coke 34s, IX ditto 42s, IC charcoal 39s 6d, IX ditto 46s per box. Lead is steady, at 23½ to 24½ for English pig, and 23½ for Spanish. Swedish steel is in fair request.

COALS, Monday, April 20.—Market without any alteration from last day, with a good sale. Haswell, 18s; Stewart's, 18s; Lambton's, 17s 6d; Kellon, 16s 6d; Wylam, 16s 3d; South Kellon, 16s 9d; Tanfield, 13s; Hartley's, 17s;—Fresh arrivals, 28; left from last day, 94.—Total, 122.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, April 21.—Our market to-day is exceedingly quiet, without any apparent change. The sales are 4,000 bales, including 3,400 American, 6d to 8d; 500 Surat, 6d to 8d; 60 Maranham, 8½ to 8½d; 40 Pernam, 8½d; of which 500 are for speculation and export. The week's import is 47,288 bales.

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